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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should public school students in the CNMI have school uniforms?

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NMC Enrollment

The Northern Marianas College's enrollment numbers for the fall semester spike by 23 percent.

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Bookworm

Eighth-grader Keina Santos earns for herself the Most Read award by reading 204 books.

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Hostage

A dismissed policeman armed with an automatic rifle seizes a bus hostage in Manila.

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MHS expects over 1,400 enrollees this school year. **PAGE 3**
DUI checkpoints net eight citations, one arrest. **PAGE 7**

CUC emergency enters second year



WHEN IT RAINS, IT FLOODS IN HERE

A sports utility vehicle negotiates one of the worst flooded streets in Chalan Kanoa yesterday afternoon, when the island also had to contend with overcast skies as well as fog in upper villages such as Capital Hill. Heavy rains since the weekend clogged Saipan's low lying and flood-prone areas.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial extended anew on Saturday the state of emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., citing the U.S. District Court's Aug. 12 "second joint stipulation" that sets new deadlines for CUC to comply with federal environmental laws.

See CUC on **Page 4**

Legislature willing to share burden of 16-hour work cuts

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Executive Branch employees may not be the only one to receive 16-hour work cuts per pay period in Fiscal Year 2011 as presiding officers and other members of the Legislature said yesterday that all have to share the burden caused by reduced government revenue.

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Help pours in for homeless family

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A homeless family of seven that was forced to take shelter on the stage of the Susupe Beach Park was overwhelmed with the outpouring of support and pledges of help that came their way yesterday, not only from the Saipan community but also from some local residents in the U.S. mainland.

Noel Saluta, 39, and his wife,

Juliet Saluta, 37, burst into tears as concerned individuals of different nationalities began to arrive as early as 6am at the Susupe Beach Park's stage where the family spent the night.

"I'm really touched. I did not expect that a lot of people, including locals, would come and help us," said the teary-eyed Mrs. Saluta in Tagalog.

The Saluta couple said people began arriving early in the morn-

See **HELP** on **Page 4**



Juliet Saluta (carrying her baby) listens to some people who came yesterday to Susupe Beach Park's stage to offer assistance to her family. Also in the photo is Juliet's husband, Noel Saluta, who is answering a phone call. The homeless Saluta couple and their five children are now staying at Sun Palace Hotel in Susupe after spending the night on the park's stage.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



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Local

DESPITE SHOW-CAUSE

NMC enrollment soars by 23 pct.

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Despite some concerns about its accreditation status, the Northern Marianas College's enrollment numbers for the fall semester spiked by 23 percent over the previous semester's record.

The college's registration period ended on Saturday with a total of 1,218 students enrolled as of yesterday noon—about 23 percent higher than fall 2009's enrollment of 991 enrollees.

In the spring semester of 2010, NMC registered 909 enrollees.

According to Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services, there were many factors that influenced many students' decision to enroll at the college.

"Our recruitment team has done a great job in helping encourage our high school graduates to consider NMC to further their education," he said.

He said they have also engaged many students through various activities, including the Start Smart Seminars held earlier this year on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.



New Northern Marianas College students listen to welcoming remarks from interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera during the orientation activity for incoming freshmen. NMC's Fall 2010 semester enrollment increased by about 23 percent from last year. NMC

The successful conduct of the "Cash for College" seminar, aimed at helping students find financial assistance to pay for their college expenses, was also cited as an important factor. Nearly 400 students attended the last "Cash for College" on campus.

Because of the CNMI's current economic climate, Pangelinan said many students are also enrolling in classes to sharpen or improve their skills and knowledge as they look to advance their careers.

Interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera was elated with the registration turnout.

"We are extremely pleased that many students have selected NMC to further their education. We are especially glad to see that many graduates from the CNMI's local high schools are choosing to start smart by starting at NMC," said Cabrera yesterday.

She lauded the contribution of the college staff, faculty, and students for the successful turnout.

"I'd like to acknowledge the assistance of many faculty, staff, and students who helped to facilitate the registration process; everyone is working together to ensure a great start to the fall

2010 semester," said Cabrera.

NMC is offering 121 courses in a wide variety of disciplines this semester.

NMC was placed on show-cause status anew this year after the Western Association of Schools and Colleges raised some concerns about NMC's leadership, governance, and financial stability.

The institution has until Oct. 15 to submit corrective measures and defend the need to retain its accreditation. The accrediting commission will then make its decision after its January 2011 assembly.

PSS wants custody of student records from Ladera

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The State Board of Education has ordered Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan to find out how the Ladera International School of Saipan plans to dispose of its student records now that it has shut down operations.

"I am asking the Commissioner of Education to inquire about the school's policy on disposing records of students. What are they going to do with the records? Will they give it to students or destroy them?" said board member Herman T. Guerrero during Friday's board meeting.

In the absence of any policy on grades disposal, Guerrero said PSS could ask the school owners to designate PSS as its official custodian of school records.

"All I am asking is that...if they don't have any policy in place on the disposal, perhaps they could give us the authority to keep the students' confidential information," he added.

LISS' operation abruptly stopped last week due to economic factors and declining number of foreign students from Korea, its main market.

The school's former principal, Dr. Jack Angello, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that school records—including confidential information of enrollees—are being stored at its owner's

house. Paper documents, he said, are in lock boxes.

Angello confirmed that PSS contacted them yesterday about the records and a formal request from PSS on the transfer of records is expected within this week.

Angello said that PSS will be provided backup information of all the records stored at the owner's house in Fina Sisú.

"We will share these confidential records with PSS and we're just waiting for the formal request from them. As soon

as we get their request, we will start providing them the backup CDs," he said.

Besides the turnover of students' records, Angello said that equipment, and other property stamped and tagged as PSS property have been returned.

Other unused federal funds are also now being liquidated by PSS, while LISS also returned all open purchased orders.

It also cancelled the laptop units intended for its junior and high school students.

"We initially sent letters to

all concerned agencies like the Commerce Department, PSS, accreditation commission... asking each of them what other things we need to settle for our closure," said Angello, who remains optimistic that the school will reopen in the near future.

LISS was founded in June 2006 by ILC Corp., owned by Yong Nam Park and SungYun Anne Kim. It was home to about 90 students, both local and international enrollees, last school year. It served kindergarten to 8th grade students.

DYS awards 15 young leaders, 1 organization

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

The Division of Youth Services recognized for the first time 15 outstanding young leaders and youth organization in a ceremony held Friday at the Minatichom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe as part of the celebration of the Youth Leadership Months.

These hardworking youth leaders were nominated by various schools and organizations and were acknowledged by DYS for having exemplified commendable leadership qualities.

They are Angel Ray T. Guerrero, nominated by DYS Emergency Shelter; Kycel

Butters and Philippe Lason, by Kagman Elementary School; Keanah Deleon Guerrero, by Hopwood Junior High School; Jaiden Santos and Alvin Arcega, by San Vicente Elementary School; Nikki Yutuc and Mikhail T. Alcantara, by William S. Reyes Elementary School; Joy Samonte and Eufemio Fera, by Marianas High School; Ha'ani Aldan and Peter Carayaoan; Jinky Kintaro, by HJHS Crime Stoppers Club; Kayla Borja and Cassandra Royal, by DYS Foster Care Program; and Teen Talk, by adviser Sharleen Crisostimo.

Each of the outstanding young leaders was presented

certificates of recognition by DYS director Debra Inos and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

"Thanks for being a role model for the other youth within the community. Keep up the good work," said Lt. Gov. Inos.

The DYS chief said all those recognized will be part of the new leadership steering committee who will join DYS in planning, recommending, and implementing programs for the youth of the CNMI.

"They will have direct involvement on actual decision making, policy making, and hands-on training," she said.

Lt. Gov. Inos also urged the young leaders to continue participating in efforts for the youth of the CNMI. "You are the future leaders of the community," he said.

Tourism Tuesday

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Marianas Tourism Education Council Named Beneficiary of Golf Classic

The **Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC)** has been named the beneficiary of the first **DOCOMO Pacific Golf Classic** slated for Sept. 4, 2010.

MTEC is a nonprofit organization promoting community awareness on the importance of the visitor industry in the Northern Marianas. MTEC's primary target group is school children, and the organization often works with school MY WAVE clubs.

MTEC membership is free and open to business organizations, public offices, and private individuals. MTEC has recently conducted a television ad campaign, rewarded school groups for participating in island clean-ups, and helped launch the "Hafa Adai Tirow Way" campaign promoting visitor hospitality in the community. If you are interested in helping with exciting community projects promoting tourism, or would like more information about MTEC, contact MTEC President Ed Cho of Saipan Grand Hotel at ed_cho@saipan-grandhotel.com or 1.670.234.6601.

Entry forms for the Docomo Pacific Golf Classic are available at Docomo Pacific Gualo Rai and MITA Travel locations and all Saipan golf courses. Entry fee is \$95.

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

MHS expects over 1,400 enrollees this school year

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Marianas High School, the oldest high school in the CNMI, expects its enrollment numbers to soar from last school year's 1,200 students to about 1,400 when classes open this Sept. 7.

Board of Education member Herman T. Guerrero said the estimate is based on his latest in-

Judge denies motion to recuse self in ex-convict's case

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman refused yesterday to recuse himself from the case of an ex-convict who is accused of assaulting a corrections officer.

Wiseman said John M. Namauleg has failed to demonstrate his right to recusal.

"The court believes that a reasonable person with knowledge of the surrounding facts of this case find that the court acted as a neutral and impartial arbiter," Wiseman said.

Assistant public defender Douglas Hartig, counsel for Namauleg, had asked Wiseman to disqualify himself from the case, saying the judge demonstrated "hostility" toward Namauleg by not rejecting his plea agreement until after he had pleaded guilty.

In denying the motion, Wiseman said he is troubled with Namauleg's assertion that the court should have rejected the plea agreement before allowing him to plead guilty.

"Such a contention is totally without any merit," the judge pointed out.

Wiseman said it has been his general policy, as well as nearly every other state and federal court across the nation, to go through the change of plea colloquy and allow the defendant to plead guilty.

"In this case, the court did just that. The court allowed defendant to withdraw his guilty plea after the court provided a basis for rejecting the plea," he said.

Wiseman disagreed with Namauleg's claims that because the judge made references to a case the government dismissed as if the court assumed guilt, recusal is warranted.

Wiseman said the fact that he knew of Namauleg's criminal record, as well as his prior criminal case, and considered this in the present crime, presents no legal basis to warrant recusal.

"A judge is allowed to consider all factors when sentencing a defendant," he pointed out.

Wiseman also noted that Hartig filed similar motion six years ago on similar grounds.

quiry with MHS administrators.

The additional enrollees are a result of the cap on the number of students at Saipan Southern High School this school year and the re-zoning of some areas on the island.

PSS earlier rezoned areas in Koblerville and San Antonio to allow students to enroll at MHS instead of Saipan Southern. SSHS had closed its enrollment early at 850 because it was already at full capacity. *Saipan Tribune* learned that SSHS was designed for only 750 students. Only 141 freshmen made it to Saipan Southern's enrollment list this year. This means majority of incoming high school students from Hopwood Junior High School

would have to go to MHS.

Despite the expected increase in the number of students at MHS, PSS officials are confident this will not cause overcrowding in classrooms.

Peter Le'au, PSS associate commissioner for administrative services, said in an earlier interview that MHS has enough classrooms if more students enroll in September. He said the campus can accommodate up to 2,000 students.

Le'au pointed out that prior to the building of Saipan Southern and Kagman High, MHS was home to over 2,000 students and 109 teachers.

"Facility-wise, MHS could house over 2,000 students like what we have before. However,

if that happens, the concern is the lack of manpower—the classroom teachers—to attend to all these students," said Le'au.

Guerrero said during Friday's board meeting that Education Commissioner Rita Sablan is expected to report on all preparations for the school opening at their next board meeting.

These preparations include the staffing in schools on three islands, professional development of teachers and personnel, school buses and other services, facilities and school buildings.

Charley Kenty, PSS human resource officer, said last week that PSS expects 30 to 40 more teachers this school year. PSS ended last school year with about 560 teachers.

Businessman's sentencing postponed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The sentencing of businessman and one-time gubernatorial candidate Juan Pan T. Guerrero did not push through yesterday after Guerrero asked the Superior Court to give him more time as he had just replaced his lawyer.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted Guerrero's request yesterday and scheduled the sentencing on Sept. 3, 2010

at 9am.

Steven Pixley told the court that Guerrero asked him to take over from the previous counsel, Joey San Nicolas.

Pixley said he wants to review the documents and see whether they should file post-trial motions.

Saying that Guerrero has the right to choose his counsel, Manglona allowed him until Aug. 27 to file any post-trial motions.

After a two-day bench trial, Manglona on Friday found Guerrero guilty of speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol, and refusal to take a breathalyzer test. Manglona, however, acquitted the businessman of reckless driving.

The accident happened on the evening of March 4, 2010, along Middle Road in Gualo Rai. No one was injured. Both vehicles had slight to moderate damage, police said.

Guerrero testified that he was not drunk when he bumped the vehicle that suddenly exited the Shell Highway Express area. He said he even called 911 and volunteered to undergo a sobriety test.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Student orientation at Kagman High

This is to inform all parents and guardians of Kagman High School students of the following activities:

Aug. 26, 2010, Thursday: Freshmen and sophomore orientation

■ 1st session: 9:30am to 11am, 9th graders
■ 2nd session: 1pm to 3pm, 10th graders

Aug. 27, 2010, Friday: Juniors and seniors orientation

■ 1st session: 9:30am to 11am, 11th graders
■ 2nd session: 1pm to 3pm, 12th graders

All students must attend. For any questions or concerns, call 237-3840. (PR)

Deadline to apply for NMC president extended

The Northern Marianas College Presidential Search Committee has announced that it has extended the deadline for accepting applications for NMC president. The new deadline is August 31, 2010. For more information about the presidential search or to view a copy of the vacancy announcement, please visit www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

SAES orientation schedule


San Antonio Elementary School would like to inform the public that its kindergarten orientation will be held on Friday, Aug. 27, 2010, at 5pm in the SAES cafeteria. We would like to ask all the parents of Kindergarten

students to be present to receive important information. Orientation for 1st-6th grade will be held on the following days and times:

Sept. 7, 2010:
4th Graders, 4-5pm
5th grader, 5-6pm
6th grader, 6-7pm
Sept. 8, 2010
1st grader, 4-5pm
2nd grader, 5-4pm
3rd grader, 6-7pm

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Kenty said that PSS has been successful in recruiting educators from off-island and is fortunate to see many former students returning to PSS.

To date, 77 percent of the CNMI's public teacher popu-

lation is classified as highly qualified. PSS has up to July 31, 2011, to ensure that 100 percent of its teaching staff is highly qualified, as mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Teen allegedly punches car's door, hits police officer's face

A teenager allegedly punched the side door of a store customer's car and resisted arrest, hitting the face of a police-woman at a Garapan store Friday midnight.

Jack Esiwini Sachuo, 19, was arrested for disturbing the peace, criminal mischief, assault and battery, and resisting arrest. Bail was set at \$2,500 cash.

Detective Sabino Cabrera stated in his report that police officers had responded to a report of a disturbance at 99 Cents Super Market in Garapan on Friday at 12:51am.

While there, Jonathan Del Mundo Mendoza told police officers that Sachuo had damaged his car.

Mendoza told police that Sachuo, whom he does not know, had approached his 2005 Toyo-

ta Matrix that was parked at the store and punched the top portion of the driver's side door.

As Sachuo walked away, Mendoza got down the vehicle and noticed a dent on the side door. He then called the police.

Cabrera said that Sachuo was very uncooperative and was shouting, cussing and threatening to beat up police officer Catherine Pangelinan.

Sachuo allegedly kept swinging his arms, hitting Pangelinan in the face.

While on the ground, Sachuo allegedly tried to grab the hand and feet of police officer Jesse Seman but Seman managed to pull away.

Officer Edwin Aguon aided Seman in subduing Sachuo and putting him inside a patrol car. (Ferdie de la Torre)



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Senate confirms changes to budget bill

» Manglona: We won't act on spending measure on Tinian

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate leadership confirmed yesterday what the public knew all along: Senators will amend the \$132 million Fiscal Year 2011 budget bill that the House passed on Wednesday.

Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) said "everything is on the table," referring to the budget of the Public School System, Northern Marianas College, the Judiciary and the Depart-

ment of Public Health, among other agencies, as well as the discretionary fund of each of 29 lawmakers.

"We welcome members of the House, even the speaker, to share their concerns about the budget bill. In the end, we have to work together to ensure smooth passage of the budget. But there's only so much we can cut," he said.

Manglona said he would rather have a joint leadership meeting than to have a full conference committee on the bill.

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hof-

schneider (R-Tinian), who is vice chair of the Fiscal Affairs Committee, said they are looking at the allocation for each agency and the concerns raised by agencies.

He said the Senate is "cognizant of the fact that everybody's [work hours] will be cut, while the budget bill proposes increases in lawmakers' discretionary funding.

But both senators said the specific changes have yet to be known. The Fiscal Affairs Committee will have a meet-

ing on Wednesday on the budget bill.

The increased discretionary funding for lawmakers and cuts in budgets for NMC are the same concerns raised by community members who held a peaceful rally in front of the legislative building on Friday.

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) reiterated yesterday that if he could have his way, he would bring down to \$80,000 the annual discretionary funding of lawmakers, from the \$130,000 proposed by the budget bill as suggested by the minority bloc.

But he said the difference should be given instead to the leadership account, which the budget bill cuts to \$76,330 from the current \$400,000. Tenorio said over \$46,000 is not enough for eight committees and three officers to do their job, including conducting public hearings on Rota and Tinian.

Manglona, at the same time, assured the public that the Senate will not act

on the budget bill during a session on Tinian.

He said the budget bill will be acted on during a session to be held on Saipan.

Manglona postponed the session on Tinian set for today, until further notice. But he said the Senate makes it a point to hold sessions on Rota and Tinian once or twice a year.

"It's not because we're running away. But that's supposed to be our scheduled session on Tinian," he said.

He added that even if the Tinian session had not been postponed, the budget bill was not on the agenda.

The Senate has set a self-imposed deadline of two weeks from receipt of the bill from the House, to act on the budget measure.

Failure to pass a budget before the start of FY 2011 on Oct. 1 will force a government shutdown as a result of last year's constitutional amendment.

LEGISLATURE

From Page 1

But as of yesterday, the Fitial administration had yet to finalize whether the 64 hours per pay period will be implemented through a uniform four-day workweek or flexible cuts depending on agencies' functions.

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said the Legislature can still function on a four-day workweek.

"I am willing to request all [legislative] staffers to work four days a week and they will get reduced salaries. I am willing to go along with that," he said.

Tenorio said the drastic drop in government revenue and the resulting salary cuts "gives more reason to pass the Saipan casino bills" so that more revenues will be generated and employees will be able to go back to an 80-hour work per pay period instead of 64.

His two casino bills remain on the agenda of today's rescheduled House session. Tenorio said he ordered the postponement of the 10am session yesterday to 1:30pm today due to misunderstanding in the announcement of the session.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) separately said the Senate leadership is "open to discussion" on the Executive Branch's reduction-in-force plan.

"We all agree there's a decrease in government revenue. But if we could accomplish this [reduction-in-force] without drastically imposing hardship on employees, the better. I wish there's a way to do this to give employees gradual impact...because it's already tough. Yes we have to cut, but how do we accomplish it?" he said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said on Sunday that the Executive Branch is expanding the reduction-in-force plan that took effect in May.

While the initial RIF cut only the

salaries of contract or excepted service employees under the Executive Branch by 10 hours per pay period, the expanded RIF is an across-the-board reduction of work hours by 16 per pay period. This means civil service and contract employees will be covered but only in the Executive Branch.

The Executive Branch could only "seek the cooperation" of the Legislature and the Judiciary.

The administration is also looking at abolishing unnecessary positions.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said he welcomes the idea of getting rid of duplicative and unnecessary functions or positions in government.

"There were lots of positions created when the government had money. ... Our current speaker was one of those who hired so many when he was the governor," Benavente said.

Benavente, a former speaker and lieutenant governor, said his position should not be misunderstood when he says it is better to let go of unnecessary government positions so that more hours will be given to those who are directly providing essential public services. He said doctors, nurses, police officers and teachers are essential, along with those running the man'amko center or maintaining tourist sites and roads.

"My main concern is public service. It's better that we lose non-essential government positions than affect the work hours of personnel giving essential services to the public," he said.

But lawmakers, just like the governor, lieutenant governor, judges and justices, are exempted from pay cuts under the constitution. Only Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos have so far volunteered to cut their salaries by 10 percent.

RIF notices being readied

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the formula to determine

the implementation of the 16-hour cut has not been finalized.

"A functionality review of all government offices will determine the most feasible approach to take in implementing the 16-hour reduction per pay period," he said.

Some government employees said yesterday that a 16-hour salary cut every two weeks will hurt their family's finances. Some are still hoping that the Executive Branch will cancel the expanded reduction-in-force.

But there's no chance of that happening. "Given the government's financial condition, there isn't any sign at this point that the RIF expansion would be suspended," Demapan said.

The Office of Personnel Management is generating a list of all excepted service and civil service employees that will be affected by the RIF.

The RIF notices are being finalized, and will have to undergo legal review before signed by each employee's department or activity head, the OPM director, and the attorney general.

Demapan reiterated that the notices will be issued this week to hundreds of government employees.

The governor gave departments until Aug. 31 to issue the notices.

The work hour cuts will take effect 30 days from receipt of the notices, just in time for the start of FY 2011 on Oct. 1.

The pending budget bill has a provision on reduction-in-force but does not specify the work hour cuts or the number of employees to be cut, given the limited resources.

By the nature of its function, OPM leads the implementation procedures for the RIF. The other members of the RIF planning and implementation committee are the Department of Finance, the Office of Management and Budget, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Office of the Special Assistant for Administration.

CUC

From Page 1

This month marks the second year since Fitial first placed CUC under a state of emergency on Aug. 1, 2008, back when Saipan was reeling from rolling blackouts.

This means procurement regulations for CUC have remained suspended, so that it could cope with emergency needs, including procuring for services and equipment, and hiring.

But to date, CUC has been having difficulty hiring water and wastewater certified operators.

"There has not been enough interest by qualified professionals. But CUC must hire such technical staff in order to comply with stiff EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] requirements, as expressed in the latest version of the stipulated orders," the governor said.

In his latest executive order, Fitial cited the U.S. District Court's Aug. 12, 2010 Second Joint Stipulation, "which replaced many otherwise unattainable deadlines, but provided other deadlines and stiff penalties for a host of technical and management positions."

Fitial said the second joint stipulation also provided for firm dates for reporting on the use of grant funds, on the progress of secondary containment facilities, providing a facilities response plan, and cleaning out Tank 104. He was referring to the federal court order on disposal of used oil.

For example, CUC is being required

to submit by Aug. 30 a report on the status of the \$4.05 million grant it got from the U.S. Department of the Interior to address oil spill related work.

On the issue of compliance with federal court orders on managing water and wastewater systems, the governor said the second joint stipulation provided for firm dates for an interim financial plan, reorganization plan, full metering and billing, a complete chlorination and disinfection program, the hiring of qualified operators in direct responsible charge, and procedures to generate the scope of work for CUC's master plan.

Before the court issued the second joint stipulation, the U.S. Department of Justice had said that CUC made some progress in complying with stipulated orders to improve its services but its failures remain extensive and overstates its accomplishments in many instances.

CUC has been hiring professionals, both U.S. and non-U.S. citizens, needed to meet the requirements of the stipulated orders and to efficiently provide utilities services.

For the foreseeable future, CUC needs to maintain its complement of skilled workers.

"In the meantime, CUC continues to work with the Northern Marianas Trade Institute to find local trainees, part of a multi-year apprenticeship program. CUC has about a dozen of these trainees, but requires fully trained, experienced technicians to keep the power plants running," Fitial said.

HELP

From Page 1

ing upon reading *Saipan Tribune's* story about their situation.

The couple and their five children—ages 7, 6, 4, and 2 years old, and a 6-month-old infant—moved to the Sun Palace Hotel in Susupe at 3:45pm after former Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez arranged for their free two-day stay at the hotel.

The couple brought their children and belongings to the park's stage on Friday at 1pm after their six-month housing aid program benefits expired on Aug. 15, 2010. Since the stage had no power, the family spent the night using four candles

and four mosquito coils.

The children were able to sleep at 3am, but their mother remained sleepless. Mr. Saluta fell asleep at 6am, but was awakened after few minutes when people began to arrive, offering them food and other assistance.

Mr. Saluta said a certain Ed Mendiola, who was among their early visitors, gave them cereals, coffee, biscuit, and other items.

He said Mendiola was supposed to bring the food to his own family for breakfast but, upon reading the news article, decided to bring the items to them instead.

Mr. Saluta said another local resident brought them donuts, while some Filipinos brought bread, noodles, other

grocery items, and clothes.

The couple said Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Ed Arriola Jr. also dropped by and checked how they could help them.

Mr. Saluta said that Carmen Fernandez offered them free two days and two nights stay at Sun Palace Hotel and vowed to follow up on the child tax check of the current occupant of the house where they were set to transfer.

Fernandez said she immediately went to the park at 8:30am after reading the story in the newspaper.

"My heart was broken!" Fernandez said.

She said she then talked with a lot of people, including Karidat's Angie Guerrero, on whatever assistance they

could provide.

Wayne Gillespie of the Salvation Army also came with several boxes of grocery items.

Mr. Saluta said Ben Sablan of Sablan Enterprises offered a free room for them on the second floor of Subway in Chalan Piao.

He said Tony Rogolifo of the Saipan Mayor's Office also offered them a house in Kagman for free.

Some alien worker groups' leaders—Boni Sagana and Rabby Syed—were seen talking with the Saluta family. Some employees of Ebisuya also gave them food and clothing and took one child to their home.

A staff at the Philippine Consulate General visited the family and in-

formed them of the consulate's readiness to help them if they want to go back to the Philippines.

Many others gave in-kind help and a few handed them cash.

Segundo Castro, a veteran who is now based in California, called *Saipan Tribune* yesterday morning and offered his house in Kagman for free.

Castro, a local resident, said he was deployed to Olongapo in the Philippines for six months in 1990 where he was treated well.

"They were very nice to me and I want to give back to them," Castro said.

As of 4pm, some people were still arriving at the Susupe Beach Park to help, but the Saluta family had already moved to the Sun Palace Hotel.

8th-grader reads 204 books over the summer, wins library award



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Siblings Keina Santos, Sriyani Sani, and Putra Sani pose with mom Patricia Sani and Joeten-Kiyu Public Library staff during the culmination activity of the Summer Reading Program last Friday afternoon.

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Most students on summer break spend their time playing, watching television all day or just hanging out. Eighth-grader Keina Santos, however, spent her vacation reading 204 books, earning for herself the Most Read award during the culmination activity of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Summer Reading Challenge Friday afternoon.

The public library's Summer Reading Challenge is a component of the 2010 Summer Reading & Cultural Fair, which ran from June 22 to Aug. 20.

Children's Library associate Erlinda C. Naputi said the purpose of the program is to teach students the value of reading and encourage them to read even during summer.

Participants of the summer reading program, including Santos, were given certificates and the chance to spin the wheel, which won them gift certificates and gift items from various sponsors.

Santos' siblings, Sriyani Sani and Putra Sani, were tied

for second place, having read 158 books each. Sriyani Sani is an incoming second-grader while Putra Sani is an incoming third-grader at Oleai Elementary School.

The three siblings were also given a special prize: PIC Waterpark passes for four.

Patricia Sani, the siblings' mother, told *Saipan Tribune* that she encourages her kids to read all the time, especially at this age when modern technology can overwhelm them.

"Reading opens their knowledge to the world. They can learn anything they want through reading. Reading also improves their vocabulary," said Sani.

According to Sani, she promotes the value of reading to her children by making it a bonding activity for their family.

"We read every day as a family," she said, adding that they also limit the children's Internet access at home.

Another family, the Magnaye sisters, came next after the Sanis. Ten-year old April Bea Magnaye read 130 books while 6-year old Yna Magnaye read

73 books.

An incoming fifth-grader at Garapan Elementary School, April Bea said she loves fairy tales and mystery books best. "It's fun to read because you learn a lot," she said.

Mother Beth Magnaye said she requires her daughters to read books before watching TV or using the computer at home.

"When I was their age, I wasn't very good at reading so I want them to get used to reading books every day," she said.

Friday's activity also saw the presentation of the students of MHS Chamorro Dance Club who learned various cultural dances over the summer and Rosenna Sablan, a summer trainee at the library who played the ukulele and sang her own composition, *Receive*.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Sisters April Bea Magnaye and Yna Magnaye pose with mom Beth Magnaye after receiving their certificates for the Summer Reading Program last Friday at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Fund's DC plan membership shoots up by 112 percent

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The number of individuals enrolled in the NMI Retirement Fund's defined contribution plan jumped to a total of 1,782 last fiscal year—a 112-percent increase over the 842 members recorded in fiscal year 2008.

According to the latest single audit conducted on the Fund, 945 additional members enrolled with the DC plan in 2009.

Conversely, its counterpart pension plan—the defined benefit plan—posted a reduction in contributing members. Records show that there were a total of 3,433 active members who were contributing to the DB plan in fiscal year 2009, lower than the 3,501 recorded in fiscal year 2008.

Of the 3,433 contributing

members last year 3,204 are classified as Class I members, required to contribute 8.5 percent of their base pay. There were 229 classified as Class II members, required to contribute 11 percent.

Meantime, members of the DB plan who received benefits last fiscal year showed a slight decrease, from 2,946 in 2008 to 2,762 in 2009.

Of the nearly 3,000 members receiving benefits last year, majority were retirees at 2,152.

The defined contribution plan was created by Public Law 15-13 to provide an individual account retirement system for persons employed by the CNMI government. It is a multi-employer pension plan and is the single retirement program for all new employees whose employment started on or after January 2007.

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Life in Motion

AP courses to be reinstated on Rota, Tinian—Sablan

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan has assured Rota and Tinian students that Advanced Placement courses would be offered on the two islands this new school year.

This came about after Senate President Paul A. Manglona, a lawmaker from Rota, expressed concern about the suspension of the AP program on the two islands because of the unavailability of qualified personnel to handle the courses.

Manglona believes that, by reinstating the program, students will have the opportunity to expand their knowledge, learning styles, and will create a greater challenge for student

achievers. Also, students will have the opportunity to earn college credits in high school, shortening their time in college and lowering tuition bills.

Saipan Tribune learned that AP courses for the two islands were suspended or stopped due to the lack of qualified AP in-

structors. The issue has been on the Education Board's agenda in the past, acknowledging the importance of bringing these classes to Rota and Tinian students.

In a letter to the Senate President last week, Sablan informed Manglona that PSS had just completed its AP institutes for teach-

ers on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

"Our teachers have taken advantage of the AP summer institute and will now be certified to extend the AP course offerings to our students on three islands," said Sablan.

Saipan Tribune learned that this year's AP summer insti-

tute was held at Marianas High School from Aug. 2 to 6; a total of nine teachers from Rota and Tinian attended the event.

Sablan said that, based on her consultation with Rota High School principal Sharlene Manglona, the school will be offering AP English and AP Math

next school year.

"We will also work hand in hand with the Rota Junior High School staff to avail of vertical teams in science to offer honors courses and AP courses in this content area to our students at the junior high and high school," said the commissioner.

To enable the students to enroll in other AP courses, Sablan said PSS is exploring independent online courses from accredited institutions such as the State Department of Education in Hawaii.

"The CNMI-PSS have plans to develop AP courses that will be offered via online or distance education as well," assured Sablan.

CDA to hold stakeholders' meeting in October

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority plans to hold a stakeholders meeting, tentatively slated for Oct. 15 at the American Memorial Park Theatre Hall.

Loan manager Oscar C. Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that the stakeholders meeting is intended for the beneficiaries of their programs like borrowers and Qualifying Certificate holders.

Camacho said the stakeholders meeting will also cater to their partners in economic programs like the Department of Commerce, the CNMI Small Business Development Center, and the Northern Marianas College.

According to Camacho, the meeting will be attended by executive director Manuel Sablan who will give a status report on CDA's programs, and the board of directors who will be present to answer questions from the audience.

Camacho said there will be presentations from the QC program and the loan section of CDA.

Camacho said they will also invite QC holders and those who availed of the Debt Relief Program to share their experiences and discuss the successes and failure of these programs during the whole-day meeting.

"We are seeking to find out more [from these stakeholders] what we can do by asking them directly," he added.

Camacho said this will be the second time that CDA will hold a stakeholders meeting. The first meeting was in December 2008.

Formerly known as the Economic Development Loan Fund, CDA is an autonomous public agency that aims to stimulate economic development in the CNMI by providing loan funds to both the private and public sectors.

Saipan Awaodori urged to represent NMI well in Japan

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Six of the eight young members of the Saipan Awaodori Group who will represent the CNMI and participate in the Awaodori festival in Japan paid a courtesy visit to Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio on Friday at the MVA conference room.

The six children were accompanied by PDM Promoters, Inc. representatives, including Shunsuke Katagiri, the Saipan Awaodori Group's dance instructor, and directors Hideaki Sawada and Misako Kamata.

Sawada, Kamata, Katagiri, and Mayumi Suzuki, another dance instructor who is already in Japan, will go with the children in their Japan trip.

PDM Promoters will subsidize part of the cost.

"I'm very excited for you guys. I'm very proud that PDM is going to bring some junior ambassadors to Japan," Tenorio told the group.

He wished the kids good luck and urged them to bring to Japan the same spirit they have in their performances here on Saipan.

"I would like to remind you that you will be representing the good people of the CNMI so be in your best behavior.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Members of the Saipan Awaodori Group who will be representing the CNMI in the Awaodori Festival in Japan, along with PDM Promoters representatives, pose for a group photo with Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio during a courtesy visit last Friday. The kids are scheduled to leave for Japan on August 26.

More importantly, show your hospitality and the *hafa adai* spirit," said Tenorio.

Tenorio also gave the children freebies like bags, pens, and stickers for them to give to their Japanese counterparts.

"Don't be shy. You guys are excellent. Just do your best," he added.

The Saipan Awaodori Group members who will fly to Japan are Sheena Saures, Virginia Imperial, Elisa Lazaro, Cod Litulumar, Ronald Fitipol, Itheyvin They, Thyvie Ann They, and

Jinky Kintaro who serves as the group leader.

Kintaro will represent the CNMI for the third time while Fitipol will participate in the Awaodori festival for the second time.

The eight members of the Saipan Awaodori Group were chosen by Yukihiro Iwanami of the Tokyo Tensui Group when they flew to Saipan for the Saipan Awaodori Festival last April.

The Tokyo Tensui Group is part of the Koenji Awaodori

Organization in Japan. Aside from the Saipan Awaodori Festival, the group also participates in the Fourth of July festivities.

Sonia Siwa of PDM Promoters, Inc. said the students are scheduled to leave for Koenji, Tokyo on Aug. 26 to take part in the 54th Tokyo Koenji Awaodori Dance Festival, slated for Aug. 28-29. They will fly back to Saipan on Sept. 2.

Aside from participating in the festival, Kamata said the children will also visit Disneyland and the MVA Japan office.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Friday, August 27, 2010 beginning at 9:30 AM at the MPLT Conference Room, 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

- I. PRELIMINARIES**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes
- II. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**
 - Action Items update
 - Chairman's Report – Pacific Islands Investment Summit
- III. CONSULTANT'S REPORTS**
 - Investment Consultant Reports
 - Loan Administrator Reports
 - Legal Counsel Reports
 - Board Consultant Reports
 - o Financial Statements – July 2010
- IV. OLD BUSINESS**
 - Request for Proposals:
 1. RFP 10-01
 2. RFP 10-02
 - Travel Policy – per diem rate
- V. COMMUNICATIONS**
- VI. NEW BUSINESS**
 - DPL Fund Transfers to MPLT
 - Adoption of MPLT Resolution 10-10 Re: Home Loan Program
 - Adoption of New Asset Allocation for Portfolio
 - 2009 Annual Report – Draft
- VII. MISCELLANEOUS**
 - 10th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIF

Chairman, MPLT Trustees

GREGORY J. KOEBEL, Esq.
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Baner
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Fax No. (670) 234-5683

Attorneys for Plaintiff Wells Fargo Financial

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL,
Plaintiff,

vs.

ALBERT U. CHARFAUROS
and FRANCISCA C.
CHARFAUROS,
Defendants.

CIVIL
ACTION
NO.
09-0481

AMENDED
NOTICE
OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Foreclosure Sale Order, dated June 10, 2010, issued by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Defendants Albert U. Charfauros and Francisco C. Charfauros' interests in Lot 001, G 151, located in Saipan, CNMI, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth herein below.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held on Tuesday, July 27, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Baner, Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. The property is described as Lot 001 G 151, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 04, the original of which was recorded 27 MAR 1986 as Document No. 86-511 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute the basis for any claim, adjustment, or rescission of the auction sale. Information concerning the property can be obtained by contacting Emma Fabre of the O'Connor Berman Dotts & Baner at Tel. No. 234-5684.

Warranties and Covenants. The property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant express or implied for the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

A) Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: 1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and 3) to reject any or all bids for any reason.

B) Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the office of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Baner. The bidder assumes all risk. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

C) Payment. The successful bidder shall pay the purchase price to the undersigned immediately after the sale is consummated.

D) Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 28th of June, 2010.

/s/ Gregory J. Koebel
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Baner,
Court-Appointed Auctioneer

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on August 24, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before August 24.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.

* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than August 24. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or visit our Customer Service Representatives at our Chalan Lau-Lau Office.



CUC sets three power outages for pole relocation on Isa Drive

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled three power outages later this week and throughout the weekend on Kiya 1 second partial. These outages will allow Kimco Enterprises to continue with the power pole relocation on Isa Drive as part of the ongoing Cross Island Road Expansion Project.

All three outages will affect the areas between the former Adventure Store in San Vicente through the Botanical Garden.

The first outage will be on Friday, Aug. 27, 2010, beginning at 1pm through 4pm. Kimco Enterprises is scheduled to remove three original power poles no longer with conductors.

The second will be on Saturday, Aug. 28, 2010, from 1pm through 4pm. This outage is to install three new power poles to the new locations on Isa Drive as designated on the road ex-

pansion project. In addition, the CUC line crew will also be replacing a termite infested junction power pole in the general area, which is not expected to exceed the three-hour limit.

The third will be on Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010, from 1pm through 4pm. This outage will provide Kimco personnel safety when transferring the high voltage conductors to the three new power poles and the removal the three old poles.

This will complete all required work on the electrical grid for the Cross Island Road Project on Phase 1.

"CUC apologizes for any inconvenience these scheduled power outages may impose on the community and its consumers and will continue to work diligently to minimize future interruptions," the agency said in a statement. (CUC)

DUI checkpoints net eight citations, one arrest

The Department of Public Safety's sobriety checkpoints on the evening of Aug. 21 and early morning hours of Aug. 22 resulted in a total of eight active citations issued to motorists and the arrest of one individual.

The first checkpoint—conducted on Chalan Pale Arnold in Gualo Rai on the outer

southbound lane in front of the Coastal Resources Management Office, from 10:30pm to 11:15pm—resulted in four active citations issued to motorists, according to police spokesman Sgt. Thomas A. Blas Jr.

One was issued a citation for transporting minors under the age of 12 in the bed of a pickup

and for not having a driver's license in possession. Two were issued citations for having faulty brake lights and one for not displaying license plates properly. A total of 71 vehicles were checked; no arrests were made.

The second checkpoint—conducted on Chalan Pale Arnold in Garapan on the outer

southbound lane in front of the CNMI Museum, from 1:30am to 2:45am—netted four active citations: One for not displaying the license plates properly, two for seatbelt violations; one for speed violations. A 17-year-old male was arrested and was charged with illegal possession of a controlled substance and for curfew violations. A total of 41 vehicles were checked. (Saipan Tribune)

Saipan lawmakers' help sought on \$30K for past Flame Tree fest, upcoming Guam fair

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. Ray A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan) said the delegation is being asked to cough up \$30,000 to pay for expenses related to the 29th Flame Tree Arts Festival in April and for the Guam Micronesian Fair in Guam on Oct. 15 to 17.

Tebuteb, in an interview, said the delegation is asking for justification on the requests,

so there is no decision yet on whether funds will be provided to the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture.

Besides asking the delegation for money, CCAC will also be holding a fundraising luncheon to be able to send local artists to Guam for the October fair.

CCAC executive director Angel S. Hocog, in a letter to Tebuteb, said the council is seeking financial assistance from government agencies and local business partners to de-

liver services to the community, due to a lack of local and federal funds for the council.

"The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs has been providing great assistance to our office with some of our pressing needs. As much as DCCA wants to assist in all CCAC's needs, prudently, when it comes down to financial assistance, DCCA can only extend to some inquiries. This is also because of other divisions that are in the same financial situation,"

Hocog told Tebuteb.

Among CCAC's outstanding obligations is the \$2,175 it owes to JC Manglona doing business as UR Tents for tent rentals at the Flame Tree Arts Festival in April.

"I know times are tough, but we can't ignore the importance of our culture," Hocog added.

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation was supposed to hold a session on Thursday morning, but this has been postponed until further notice.



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INVITATION FOR BID NMHC IFB 2010-004 (REBID)

This ad is paid with HUD Funds by NMHC

Ground Maintenance Services for NMHC's Properties in Rota

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide ground maintenance services for its properties in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan or at its Field Office in Songsong Village, Rota, beginning Tuesday, August 10, 2010, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m., during regular business hours, except CNMI holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office located in the Tamara and Seven Brothers Enterprises Building in Songsong Village on Wednesday, September 8, 2010, at 10:30 a.m. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivision and other properties owned by NMHC to be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visits are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements, and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC IFB 2010-004 (REBID)**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two (2) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m., local time Wednesday, September 15, 2010**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Wednesday, September 15, 2010**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two (2) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **Wednesday, September 15, 2010**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **September 22, 2010**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **8:00 a.m., local time, September 23, 2010**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time on Wednesday, September 15, 2010**.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

The Commonwealth Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined by the government to be in its best interest. All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/
MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/
HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.



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INVITATION FOR BID NMHC IFB 2010-008 - TINIAN

This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.

Building Maintenance of Section 8 Housing Units in Tinian

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide building maintenance services for its Section 8 Housing Units in Tinian.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at any of the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan or San Jose Village, Tinian, beginning Wednesday, August 11, 2010, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on the Island Tinian. The Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office located in the Juan King Building in San Jose Village at 10:30 a.m. on **Thursday, September 9, 2010**. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed bids must be marked **"NMHC IFB 2010-008 - Building Maintenance for Section 8 Housing Units (TINIAN)"**. An original and three (3) copies of the bid must be submitted to the Procurement and Supply Office, Lower Base, Saipan no later than 10:00 am, September 16, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 am local time, **September 16, 2010**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service, the official government postal service of a foreign country, or a commercial courier, no later than **September 16, 2010**, and must be received no later than September 23, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 am, local time **September 24, 2010**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 am, local time on **September 16, 2010**.

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of \$50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor until the hourly rate equals that of the Federal Minimum Wage of \$7.50 per hour.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority business and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible," take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Rota and Tinian.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference," as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

Should you require additional information, please direct inquiries to Jocelyn S. Kaipat, Office Manager, via email to jkaipat@nmhc.gov.net or facsimile at (670) 234-9021.

/s/
MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/
HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.



The Sablan family: Wilma, Marine Lance Cpl. Neilryan Sablan and their children, 3-year-old daughter Ha'ani and Kayleb (in his mother's arms) six months. Jenny Craig is in the middle. To her right are Marine Sgt. Daniela Salas, Lance Cpl. Kaipo Derego, Cpl. Tania Marquez and Pfc. John Young.

DEL MAR TIMES

Marine Corps family surprised with car donation

By JULIE SARNO
DEL MAR TIMES

Jenny Craig recently donated a much-needed vehicle to a member of the United States Marine Corps and his fam-

ily. Craig is probably most frequently associated with the weight loss/management and nutrition company that she and her late husband, Sid, built into a multi-national enterprise.

"This vehicle now will make

life easier for those who do the most," said Craig, as she handed the Sablan family an envelope which contained the keys to a silver 2003 Lincoln Navigator. "I'm always happy to do what I can to make your life a little easier. I want to thank the Marines from the bottom of my heart for all that you do."

The Sablan family visited Craig's Rancho Paseana, her horse farm and training center in Rancho Santa Fe. They were among a group of Marines who visited from Camp Pendleton under the pretext they were just seeing some Thoroughbreds undergoing their daily exercise routine.

The group of U.S. Marines included Lance Corporal Neilryan Sablan, known as Neil, and his wife, Wilma, and their two children, 3-year-old daughter Ha'ani and six-month-old son Kayleb. Born and raised in Saipan, Sablan came to the United States in 2005 seeking greater opportunities and a better future. He married his sweetheart, Wilma, also from Saipan, nearly four years ago. Both are 25.

Sablan enlisted in the Marine Corps two years ago and intends to make the Marine Corps his career. Despite being in the service for only two years, he is a rising star, according to his supervisor Dennis Flores, adjutant to the Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton.

"Lance Corporal Sablan is a wonderful corporal and has al-

ready received several written commendations for exceptional performance," said Flores, who coordinated the donation with Craig and her assistant Gail Killeen.

The family shared one vehicle, which is not very reliable, according to Sablan. His wife and two children rise with the sun to drive him to work, dropping him off by 6 a.m. Then they pick him up at Camp Pendleton at 4:40 p.m. The cycle reverses as Sablan drops his wife at school at the University of Phoenix.

He then watches the children until it's time to pick up Wilma, often, late at night. The second vehicle will shorten the long days the family experiences as Neil will now be able to drive himself to work.

Craig said this is the second used vehicle she has donated to a U.S. Marine. Eight months ago she gave a vehicle to a single mother who was relying on bus transportation to take her children to daycare and then herself to work, spending hours each day on transportation.

"After I gave the first car away, a friend of mine called me to tell me she had done the same thing," said the horse owner, whose colt Twirling Candy won the Oceanside Stakes at Del Mar in July."

The group of Marines gave Craig a mug with the Marine motto, "Semper Paratus." Craig vowed to drink her morning coffee from the mug each day.

DUI checkpoints on Tinian this week

The Tinian Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting sobriety checkpoints this week.

The first one will be held on Thursday, Aug. 26, 2010, along the southbound lane on Broadway by Grace Christian Academy, from 8pm to 9:15pm.

The second will be held on Friday, Aug. 27, 2010, along the southbound lane on Broadway by Natibu Park, from 9pm to 10:15pm.

The third will be held on Saturday, Aug. 28, 2010, along the northbound lane by Listo Print

Shop, from 9pm to 10:15pm. It will then relocate to the southbound lane by Grace Christian Academy, from 11pm to 12:15am.

In addition to the checkpoint, officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions.

All checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain.

For more information in regards to the sobriety checkpoints on Tinian, contact PO3 W. Villagomez or POI Kioni Cruz at (670) 433-9222/433-2041. (DPS)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 24, 1999

House eyes CIP money to augment MVA funds

The House Ways and Means Committee is looking at the possibility of tapping the Capital Improvement Projects fund to augment the limited budget of the Marianas Visitors Authority for its promotional campaign in Fiscal 2000. MVA met with the committee members last week to seek an additional \$1.75 million for its advertising campaign after the Office of Budget and Management has pegged its budget at \$5.88 million for next fiscal year. Rep. Karl T. Reyes said the \$1.75 million can be taken from the \$8 million Garapan Beautification Project included in the planned \$60 million bond float for CIP this year.

Teno names Pfund acting AG

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has appointed Sally Pfund as acting Attorney General to replace Maya B. Kara who is on vacation. But the appointment would last for only 30 days as it was made to comply with the law that require officials in acting capacity to hold the post for only that period. Kara, whose nomination was withdrawn by the governor last year in the wake of clear Senate rejection, will be re-appointed as acting chief government lawyer after a month, Tenorio said yesterday. "She has not been confirmed yet and a nominee can only serve for a 30-day period so I have no choice but to appoint other AG to take care of that," he told reporters.

Aug. 24, 2000

CNMI, Hawaii seal deal to strengthen workforce

The Workforce Investment Agency has sealed anew a memorandum of understanding with the Pacific Educational Foundation Inc./MTC-Hawaii Job Corps Center for a partnership program eyed to nurture responsible, employable, and productive citizens. WIA Executive Director Felix R. Nogis and Governor Pedro P. Tenorio have signed the agreement with Hawaii Job Corps officials in efforts to promote the HJCC mission which is to provide academic, vocational, and social development training to young men and women ages 16 to 24. Mr. Nogis said collaborative efforts between the agencies would serve many advantages to local citizens especially as it targets participation of individuals from low-income families.

CHC sued for negligence

A resident of Rota has filed a civil suit against the Commonwealth Health Center, accusing its physicians and employees of negligence that resulted in the death of her husband two years ago. According to a complaint filed by Jacoba Flawau King through lawyer William M. Fitzgerald, CHC physicians and employees in Rota failed to recognize the seriousness of the condition of her late husband Jose T. King and the need for immediate transfer to Saipan. Mr. King died on Aug. 23, 1998 when he fell and struck his head on a concrete floor. He was found unconscious without any pulse. He was then resuscitated and immediately taken to Rota Health Center-CHC, where he was examined by physicians and employees. At that time, Mr. King was diagnosed to have been suffering from head trauma.

Aug. 24, 2001

The landfill saga never ends

Just when the battle for the multi-million dollar Marpi landfill contract is almost over, a losing bidder said yesterday it will appeal the decision of the Division of Procurement and Supply that junked its protest exactly two weeks ago. The joint venture of Western Equipment, Inc. and DRC Pacific, Inc. said it will beat today's deadline for the filing of an appeal before the Office of the Public Auditor. "We are presently working on it (appeal)," said Stephen J. Nutting, lawyer of WEI-DRC. Under existing procurement regulations, a losing bidder may file an appeal within ten days from the issuance of the Procurement and Supply decision denying its protest.

Election board completes certification of candidates

All candidates seeking public office in the November general election have submitted complete documents supported by their respective petitions for candidacy, the CNMI Commission on Election said yesterday. Election Executive Director Greg Sablan said the commission has certified all candidates running in the November polls after thorough evaluation of all documents submitted to his office. Sablan said all candidates met the requirements set by the commission. Four prominent political leaders are running for the gubernatorial race in what promises to be one of the CNMI's most hotly-contested elections in history.

Can you identify?

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the Saipan Tribune, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.



If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.

The person featured in last week's photo has been identified as Jacinta M. Kaipat. Identified by Rita Cabrera, Isabel K. Davis, Agnes Ripple, Manuel Kaniki, Maria Olopai, Geraldine Borja, and Paula Delos Santos.



Hotel occupancy rate at 62 percent in July 2010

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 62 percent occupancy among its 13-member hotels for July 2010, a 7-percent increase from July 2009.

A total of 51,538 of 84,103

available room nights were sold in July, compared to 46,965 of 85,250 available room nights sold over the same period last year. Room rates were nearly unchanged at \$96.96 during the month, compared to

\$97.08 last year.

"Due to summer vacations, July is normally a high season for the hotel industry," said HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa. "We're encouraged to see slightly high-



er number this year compared to last July. We would like to see this recovery continue, but that will only be possible if the Northern Marianas can stabilize air lift and continue

regular flights from our tourism markets, especially Osaka and Nagoya in Japan."

So far this year, hotel occupancy is at an average 64 percent, well below the healthy industry indicator average of

80 percent.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Northern Marianas. (HANMI)

New book explores Chamorro spirituality

HAGÁTÑA, Guam—A new book, *Towards a Theology of the Chamoru: Struggle and Liberation in Oceania*, has been published by Jonathan Blas Diaz, a native son to Guam, the CNMI, and Micronesia through Claretian Publications.

Claretian Publications publishes works that promote a renewed spirituality rooted in the process of total liberation and solidarity in response to the needs, challenges and pastoral demands in the Church today.

Towards a Theology of the Chamoru is based upon the historical development of religious expressions and the spirituality of the Chamorro people of the Marianas from missionary conquest to colonization, and gives a clear historical portrait of the disposition of Pacific Islanders in the midst of competing militaristic positioning and geo-politics.

Towards a Theology of the Chamoru is Diaz's attempt to paint a portrait of his people's experience, grounding himself in Scripture and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church and Catholic social teaching. The book is based upon his research and writings of other organic intellectuals in Oceania and world-renowned Roman Catholic theologians.

Jonathan Blas Diaz received a master's degree in Systematic and Philosophical Theology from the Graduate Theological Union and the Franciscan School of Theology in 2003 and a bachelor's degree in English from St. John's Seminary College in 1999. He has extensive teach-

ing and ministerial experience in theological education and ministry and has served in various administrative capacities in Guam and in the continental United States.

The book is now available on Guam and Saipan and can be purchased through Bestseller Bookstores (Guam and Saipan), St. Padre Pio Gift Shop, C & G Religious Enterprises (Hafa Adai Exchange), I Guinahan Chamorro (across

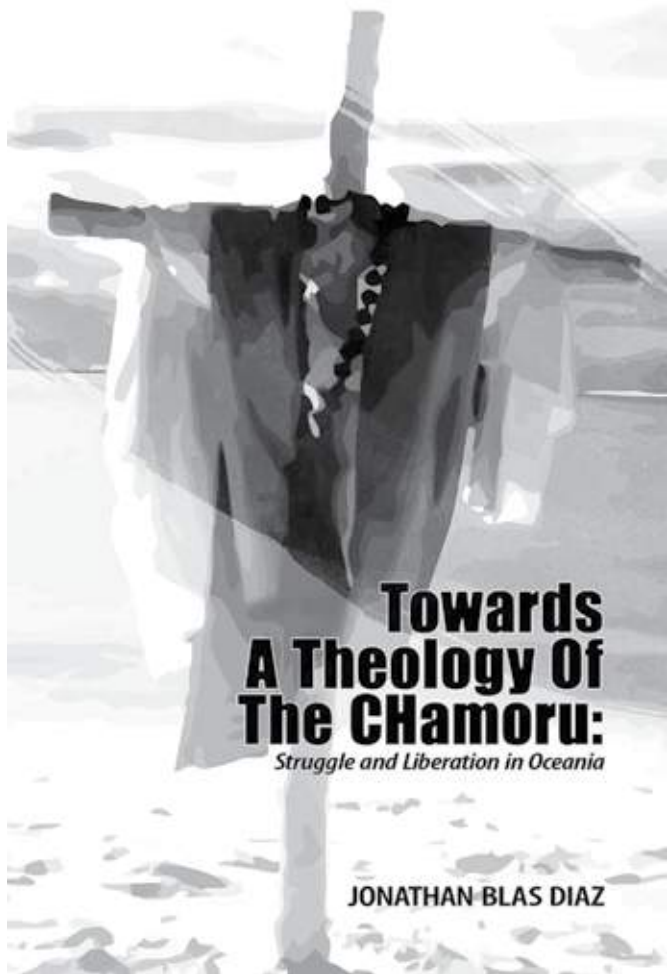
Mangilao Winchell's), and the Guam Federation of Teachers Union.

A book signing with the author will be held on:

■ Saturday, Aug. 28, 2010, at Bestseller (GPO) from 11am to 2pm;

■ Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010, at Bestseller (Micronesian Mall) from 11am to 2pm; and

■ Sunday, Sept. 5, 2010, at Bestseller (Saipan) from 11am to 2pm.



Towards a Theology of the Chamoru: Struggle and Liberation in Oceania is written by Jonathan Blas Diaz through Claretian Publications.

NMC-CREES' 4H project helps local schools



NMC

Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service' 4-H program agent Polly Omechalang, right, shakes hands with Kagman High School vice principal of Curriculum and Instruction Leila Staffler as NMC-CREES director Ross Manglona, center, looks on. Omechalang and Manglona recently presented Staffler a *pala pala*, or pavilion area, that student participants built on the KHS campus as part of the 4-H program's Positive Reinforcement for Youth Development and Empowerment project and the 2010 National Children, Youth, and Families at Risk Summer Camp program. The student participants also made benches to donate for Tinian High School and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service's 4-H program recently donated their assistance to three schools in the CNMI.

Under the 4-H program, 15 participants in the program built a *pala pala*, or pavilion area, on the Kagman High School campus, and made benches for Tinian High School and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

NMC-CREES director and acting dean of Community Programs and Services Ross Manglona, and 4-H agent Polly Omechalang recently presented the *pala pala* to Leila Staffler, vice principal of Curriculum and Instruction at KHS. Staffler received the donation behalf of the school and KHS principal Alfred Ada.

The community service activ-

ities were part of a project called Positive Reinforcement for Youth Development and Empowerment that was developed by the NMC-CREES' 4-H program through a grant from the 2010 National Children, Youth, and Families at Risk program.

"The PRYDE project was made possible through the excellent grant writing skills of 4-H coordinator Lawrence Duponcheel," said Manglona. "I congratulate Mr. Duponcheel and his staff for their continuing effort to increase our service capabilities to the youth in the CNMI."

The concept of the PRYDE project was based on the principles of the 4-H leadership curriculum and experiential learning through the 2010 CYFAR Summer Camp program. The project aimed to maximize the youth

participants' engagement in the project activities, and to build their self-esteem and confidence.

"Since many of the participants in the program attend KHS, it was suggested that they create something that will benefit the school," said Manglona. "This was a great idea because these students will return to school, and be able to see something positive that they created, and can be proud of."

The participants are students from KHS and Tinian High School, who were selected to participate in the program by their respective high school principals. The 4-H program and CYFAR program will continue to serve these participants at their campus sites for the next three years in order to assist in achieving success in high school. (NMC)

Learn how to prevent OSHA violations, fines

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will be hosting Reynaldo Deleon Guerrero, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration onsite consultation manager for the CNMI, during its upcoming general membership meeting for August.

The lunch meeting will be held at the Fiesta Resort and Spa's Azucena Room on Thursday, Aug. 26, 2010, from 11:30am to 1:30pm. It is open to the public.

This presentation topic, "How to Prevent OSHA Violations and Fines," will be an invaluable opportunity for employers and employees to learn about their rights and responsibilities under OSHA and new developments that may be coming.

As OSHA turns 40 years old, the organization plans to increase its enforcement and raise its fines which may lead to 1) more inspections, 2) larger fines, 3) regulation by shaming (negative press releases about violating employers), and several other planned changes to increase enforcement, according to a letter from OSHA assistant secretary, Dr. David Michaels, to all OSHA employees dated July 19, 2010.

Now, more than ever, it is critical for CNMI employers to find out how to prevent workplace injuries and illnesses that could result in OSHA violations and fines.

Deleon Guerrero will provide CNMI employers an overview of OSHA enforcement in the

CNMI and will explain how an organization can be proactive in identifying and addressing potential health and safety concerns in the workplace before a complaint is filed or an OSHA inspector finds the violation and issues an expensive fine.

Deleon Guerrero will discuss important topics such as:

■ What are the most common OSHA violations in the CNMI and Guam?

■ What are the rights and responsibilities of CNMI employers and employees under OSHA?

■ What are the different ways an OSHA complaint can be filed against an organization?

■ What is the free OSHA onsite consultation program and how can organizations take ad-

vantage of it?

The U. S. Congress created OSHA as part of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, to ensure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women by setting and enforcing standards and by providing training, outreach, education and assistance.

According to OSHA, an average of 14 workers die on the job in America each day and more than 4 million individuals are injured each year on the job. You won't want to miss this opportunity to find out more about OSHA and how you and your organization can stay in compliance with free assistance from OSHA so that you can prevent potential violations and expensive fines.

The presentation includes lunch and the cost is \$20 for

SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Polly Deleon Guerrero (SHRM CNMI Chapter Vice President) at 237-5122 or e-mail her at polyldeg@gmail.com.

The Society for Human Resource Management is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The CNMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. (SHRM)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Mike Delos Reyes, who is celebrating his birthday today, Aug. 24, 2010. We hope you will enjoy your special day and may you have many more birthdays to come! Greetings come from friends and family.



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the
Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section

The dog days of summer

It was not really that hot this month of August, and the frequent afternoon downpours kept the temperature at decent levels, but there sure had been too many waiting days these past 30 days. I started the season of Sirius (dog star in the constellation from which the Romans derived the dog days of summer due to its proximity to the sun) by taking the Social Studies PRAXIS test.

Previously, when I finally learned to keep my spondylosis under proper management, I contacted one of PSS' principals to inquire if there was a need for a Social Studies teacher. There was, at one of the Saipan high schools, and the principal was only delighted to have me join the staff. "Whoa," said HR. "Your certification is only K-6. You need high school level certification to be remunerated at standard level, otherwise, back to the entry gate." So I took the SS Praxis this summer.

The only contradiction now, of course, is that positions for Social Studies teachers have all been filled. I had added Rota and Tinian in my quest but Rota's staffing was full and all Tinian had available was someone to teach British literature. Problem with the literature role is the additional Praxis requirement. I would have romped with the Queen's English, along with that of the Bard of Avon, but at PSS, *In PRAXIS We Trust*, indeed. Last Friday, it was down to a 2nd-grade teaching or a junior high Language Arts class. I never got the call. Evidently, PSS classrooms will not be my daily venue this school year!

I have become familiar with waiting rooms this month — the telephone company, the utilities corporation, two banks, the MD's office, the moving vehicle's office, PSS' third floor, to name a few. But August is summertime, and the forgiving is easy. That's where Joe *Saipan Mango Race's* books came in handy. I had a couple of his books tag along.

First, in *Ramblin' On*, there's the story of the Commonwealth governor of Carolinian descent who absconded with government funds and hightailed it fast with the southeast winds to the outlying Eastern Carolines. Mango's former role as an investigator of the Attorney General's Office in the CNMI and former top cop in Pohnpei would make the logistics of such an event familiar.

The story of tracking the Governor and settling the final distribution (sounds like the divvying up of the Retirement Funds!) is classic island resolution arrived at with due consideration of the welfare of all, the Guv included!

In an earlier related incident, a husband whose wandering paws did not excuse members of his household was summarily dealt with. In an example of how island justice is administered, the offending party was taken out to sea and dropped like dead weight to commune with the fishes. Not unlike your Sicilian Jersey shore solution, but this one was carried out more humanely and naturally. Allegorically, the Guv met the same fate.

See SUMMER on next page



China's fight against disposable chopsticks

China's Ministry of Commerce, together with five other ministries, issued this warning in June: "Companies making disposable chopsticks will face local government restrictions aimed at decreasing the use of the throwaway utensil. ... Production, circulation and recycling of disposable chopsticks should be more strictly supervised."

With summer floods devastating southern, western and northeastern China, a massive oil spill smothering the Yellow Sea off the port of Dalian, 3,000 barrels of chemicals bobbing aimlessly but threateningly in the Songhua River in the northeast, and nearly half a million newly registered cars—just since January—on Beijing roads spewing who knows how much additional carbon dioxide into the air, you may think that the government is unnecessarily overreaching in waging a war on the disposable chopstick.

But start doing the math and the disposable chopstick, made largely from birch and poplar (and, less so, from bamboo, because of its higher cost) begins to look deeply menacing—an environmental disaster not to be taken lightly. Begin with China's 1.3 billion people. In one year, they go through roughly 45 billion pairs of the throwaway utensils; that averages out to nearly 130 million pairs of chopsticks a day. (The export market accounts for 18 billion pairs annually.)

Greenpeace China has estimated that to keep up with this demand, 100 acres of trees need to be felled every 24 hours. Think here of a forest larger than Tiananmen Square—or 100 American football fields—being sacrificed every day. That works out to roughly 16 million to 25 million felled trees a year. Deforestation is one of China's gravest environmental problems, leading to soil erosion, famine, flooding, carbon dioxide release, desertification and species extinction.

If the disposable chopstick has to go, you can be sure that its death will be a slow one. Calls to abandon the use-and-toss type began more than 10 years ago and have since persisted unabated. By 2006, the activism had become more strenuous: Citizens launched a BYOC (Bring Your Own Chopsticks) movement, which continues to gather momentum. And Greenpeace China, channeling Nancy Reagan, sponsored a "Say no to disposable chopsticks" campaign. In 2008, endangered orangutans (OK, they probably were just guys dressed as orangutans) took up the cause, bursting into cafeterias in China of large companies such as IBM, Microsoft and Intel to remind diners of the ecological perils of chopstick deforestation.

Yet, more than 10 years later, the targeted disposable remains with us. Why?

First, while we in the West don't give much thought to a chop-

By DANIEL K. GARDNER
Los Angeles Times

Daniel K. Gardner is a professor of history and the director of the program in East Asian studies at Smith College. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



stick "industry," in China, where 100,000 people in more than 300 plants are employed in the manufacture of the wooden utensils, it's most definitely a flourishing enterprise. And just as jobs trump environmental issues in the West (think the coal, oil and logging industries), the argument that 100,000 jobs are at stake is a refrain that carries considerable weight. As Lian Guang, president of the Wooden Chopsticks Trade Association, told the China Daily in 2009, "The chopstick industry is making a great contribution by creating jobs for poor people in the forestry regions," adding that melamine-resin chopsticks are hardly a sanitary substitute with their "high formaldehyde content." His mention of melamine resin is an effective touch, I admit.

Then there are the restaurants. The alternative to wooden disposables is sterilizing the tableware (plastic, metal or durable wood chopsticks) after each use. But the cost differential is significant: Disposables run about a penny apiece, while sterilization ranges from 15 to 70 cents. Restaurants, especially the low-end ones, worry about passing the costs on to customers. And the worry would seem to be warranted: Consumer advocacy groups from 21 Chinese cities published an open letter in March arguing that the costs of sterilization should not be passed on to consumers as the food safety law obligates restaurants to provide free, clean and safe tableware.

The warning issued by the Ministry of Commerce would appear to be a step in the right direction. Realistically, though, it offers scant hope; it simply has no teeth. It doesn't address the specific restrictions to be imposed, nor the nature of consequences for violations. Most tellingly, it sidesteps making any particular agency responsible for enforcement.

That the Chinese leadership is now taking sides in the war over disposable chopsticks is nonetheless heartening. But in the end, the outcome will be determined by the people, who will decide whether carrying their own sticks and bearing the costs of reusables is too large a price to pay to protect China's quickly disappearing forests.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HB17-96: Reflection of our leaders

I hope all government employees remember the day the members of the House of Representatives passed HB17-96 as a tragic day in CNMI history. Of course this is only my opinion and for sure they will disagree for it is the best piece of legislation they ever came up with. Heaven on earth, if I got a \$50K increase I'll be shouting with glee too! Ecstatic that my bill was passed successfully! Imagine that? No opposition.

So now they got their raises and we will get our demotions, imposed through this administration's wonderful idea called austerity. The truth is, we all know that none of most members of the Legislature, nor this administration, will ever come up with meaningful, realistic or revenue generating legislation to help sustain the economy and the people who live here. They are all stuck with the raising-licenses-fees-and-reducing-the-rebate-percentage mentality as the only way to increase revenue, which never works. I bet they never did a study or even once followed up on the ramification of their legislations to see if they actually helped or contributed to killing our economic well-being.

Then again, why should they care? They have discretionary funds. Oh! And of course the leadership funds that should be increased. Also, blame the previous leaderships for this mess. Who knew it was during his term as governor? All is messed up except thee, but he definitely made sure the LB director gets not more than \$1 maximum compensation. How admirable and priority driven, clearly written with a lot of thought put into it, now awaiting Senate approval.

It is terribly sad that the 17th Legislature considers HB17-96 an accomplishment when it is only good for them. Honorable leaders, you are all admirable for requesting exemptions from future cuts, to include OPA's 1 percent, which the rest of us will proportionately share, therefore less disposable income. Imagine, even 1 percent of

the total budget is too much to sacrifice, while we take up to 25 percent from our salary and they don't. How are you better than your constituents?

Now we wait and see how the Senate will respond and what amendments they will come up with. Hopefully, our senators are not the scarecrow our representatives are. Without their proper actions, HB17-96 is better of killed so the whole government shuts down in October. Let everyone, including legislators, experience incompetent government operations, which we are currently in.

Rep. Basa should write a resolution and call this shutdown "Government Time of Reflection." "Whereas, the executive, judicial and legislative government employees will take a recess from their ever increasing workload to reflect on the good deeds, acts and valuable contributions they have made to the entire CNMI government and its people. Whereas, in this time of economic hardship, imagine the savings the government will incur when it shuts down, millions!"

How can anyone pass a budget that is unbalanced, unfair, unequal and unbelievably wrong? This cannot be allowed just so legislators will continue getting their pay; it must be passed because it is right and in the best interest of the Commonwealth people and its government. My apology for being sarcastic, upfront and, maybe, insulting but this is my home too. Not too long from now this home that is the only one I know will be economically dead in the middle of the Pacific and no leadership or discretionary fund is helping. No wonder citizens, businesses and everything else are less now. Are good, reasonable and ethical public servants really getting scarce up on that hill?

Karla C. Mareham
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Homesteads on Tinian

This letter is in response to the *Saipan Tribune* article dated Aug. 19, 2010, "Law sets aside 50 pct. of available Tinian public land for homestead." Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) authored Senate Bill 17-22 or The Tinian Homestead Act of 2010, which became Public Law 17-12. "Allocating a portion of public lands on Tinian for current and future homestead development is the best interest of those Tinian residents who are Northern Marianas descent. Finally, the Legislature finds that sometime in the future, there will be no lands available for allocation to the people of Tinian," according to the bill.

Sen. Hofschneider, could you please define "Tinian residents who are Northern Mariana descent." I was contacted yesterday by several of your constituents from Tinian (voters) in the United States and they were puzzled with such wording in your bill. Are the Tinian residents you were referring to relatives and friends?

The reason we are asking such questions is because many of us had submitted application for our homestead and agriculture lots dating back when your late brother was in charge of the homestead program on Tinian. According to the former director of public land on Tinian, he stated that, "Mr. Manuel P. Villagomez, one of the former board of directors of the Mariana Public Land Corporation from Tinian, refused to issue me a homestead permit because I do not reside on Tinian and I am not entitled to such program." If such statement is applicable to some of us, then why is it that many of your relatives and friends who live in the U.S. mainland being afforded their homesteads on Tinian? I have an

individual that called me several months ago asking me to buy his/her homestead on Tinian. He/she does not have a quitclaim, let alone having the 10-years period before selling it. His/her homestead permit was issued when he/she was in the U.S. mainland. The more we dug into the individual's background, the more we found out that his/her family was well connected with local politicians. While many of us who vote and are permanent residents of Tinian who are attending secondary institutions in the U.S. were being denied our privileges, some were being afforded the perks of being related to someone in office. Since you are representing us on Tinian we want to know why such double standard exists in our community.

Someone brought to our attention that the homesteads that were given to our residents on Tinian (decades ago)—parallel to Kramer and Taga beach overlooking the ocean—were issued mostly to your relatives (brother and your first cousins). Are we the forgotten residents of Tinian? Are we the people who you ignored for so long? I am not writing this letter for myself; I am content with what I have. I am writing this letter for your constituents who are afraid to speak of the truth for fear of political retaliation from you or your colleagues. We are not telling you what to do, but you need to be aware that such issue exists and it is not fair for some. We are hoping that you will address our concerns.

Segundo Castro
Stockton, California

No-name cyber rats

I've read the rants of certain self-righteous no-namers, who claim to be more mentally competent than the rest of the world with their anonymous comments to news stories. They are still gnawing on the expungement bill and themselves without ever reading the bill or learning its true intentions. The most telling comment came from one cyber-rat, who stated he hasn't even read the bill but went ahead anyway and commented on all its bad intentions. I begin to wonder who is more dangerous: anonymous gossipers who write out of sense of personal frustration, or a previous lawbreaker who has spent years atoning for his/her bad judgment and now wants a chance to have the record cleared to give themselves a better chance in life.

This legislation was a result of both the CNMI Attorney General's Criminal Division and Public Defender's Office giving advice and input into my office for an expungement act to be introduced, since the CNMI does not have one on the books. Besides the pardon process by the Governor's Office, the CNMI judicial system does have a legal process called a "4113," which allows a defendant to strike a deal with the Attorney General's Office and his or her legal defense. However, many unfortunate people cannot avail themselves of the pardon process or the "4113" for various reasons, so the expungement process is their only hope. There are expungement acts in most U.S. states, so why can't a citizen of the CNMI enjoy the same due process rights of, say, a citizen from California, or other states on the mainland?

Obviously, many of the cyber-rats have a reading deficiency and don't like to read all the parts of a bill or letter before they go ranting and gnawing on themselves. So, let's make it easy for the no-name rats: The CNMI expungement act, like most other U.S. expungement acts, is a long process of petitioning the court, then the court requires the Attorney General's Office to file papers (pro or con), after which the AGO contacts the victims, then all this ends up in the newspapers for public support or outcry, which feedback then returns back to the judge who makes a determination in the expungement petition. Of course, common sense dictates that violent offenders don't stand much of a chance at all to having their records expunged, but there are many people—not as holy and self-righteous as the cyber-rats—who just want to better their lives.

Rep. Stanley T. McGinnis Torres
Capital Hill, Saipan

An empirical observation
The group picture of PSS' leaders and management that appeared in the newspapers recently was very good as we can see who we are actually dealing with in PSS' inner circle.
If a picture expresses a thousand words, then my empirical observation would be of no surprise to anyone in the CNMI. It appears that about 90 percent of those in the picture are either overweight or obese. If PSS is the center for good education in the CNMI, the next group picture should show the reverse. But then again, we all must show the children in PSS that those in charge walk the walk, and talk the talk when it comes to good health and proper nutrition. This is just an observation, but I can't be fooled because it is empirical. Hope that things turn out for the best in health education and illness prevention programs in the next school year.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

SUMMER
From Page 10

As with Mango's other books, sometimes one gets squeamish reading it in public lest one of the *taotao tano* and *taotao tasi* folks read over one's shoulder and thinks that we are in a conspiracy to disparage island cultures and practices. Indeed, Mango must have had a few run-ins with unsavory characters as his pages are replete with characters one would not one to take to meet Mama.

But his *Christmas in the Tropics*, a celebration of life in Micronesia, is a story of a different color. Altar boy Mango preaches to the choir, dragging the whole attic of Christmas metaphors into the story's ambience and decor.

The story revolves around a fulfilled couple Anna and John

who hail from Ulithi in the State of Yap, two degrees northeast of Colonia, and a few degrees northwest of the island group of Woleai (Saipan's Oleai was named after), Eauripik, Ifaluk, Faraulep, Lamotrek and Satawal, where many of our Carolinian residents came from.

John is a well-known and respected schoolteacher. Anna promoted island crafts, making a decent living and a meaningful enterprise out of her island identity. It is a Hollywood-crafted story with the attending prodigal son and not a few military incidents of Iraq and Afghan colorations to establish relevance. Dependence on off-island higher education as the corollary option to the uniform service to further social upward mobility is well established. It is an authentic story told warmly, and given our ex-L.A. cop writer's background, surprisingly with high dosage of empathy.

While living in Majuro in the early '80s, the Micronesian Semi-






nar noted that until that period, juvenile's turn to violence was suicidal. Young people would rather inflict pain on themselves instead of hoisting it over to others. That changed and the first incident of homicide was regrettably reported in that era.

Mango's story harkens into that era when Micronesians socially would rather personally suffer instead of inflicting pain on others, particularly their loved ones. In John's journey into the sunset of his years, stricken with the debilitating effect of cancer (my political bent, were I writing the story, might have included a wayward atom carried by a sashimi-consumed tuna leaving the reader to wonder whether rogue atom originated from Bikini or Tahiti), we find a Micronesian thinking and acting traditionally the island way. There's a lot of local color in this novella, and what was to be my Christmas in October, compliments of the waiting room at CUC, it became my Christmas in the dog days of August.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

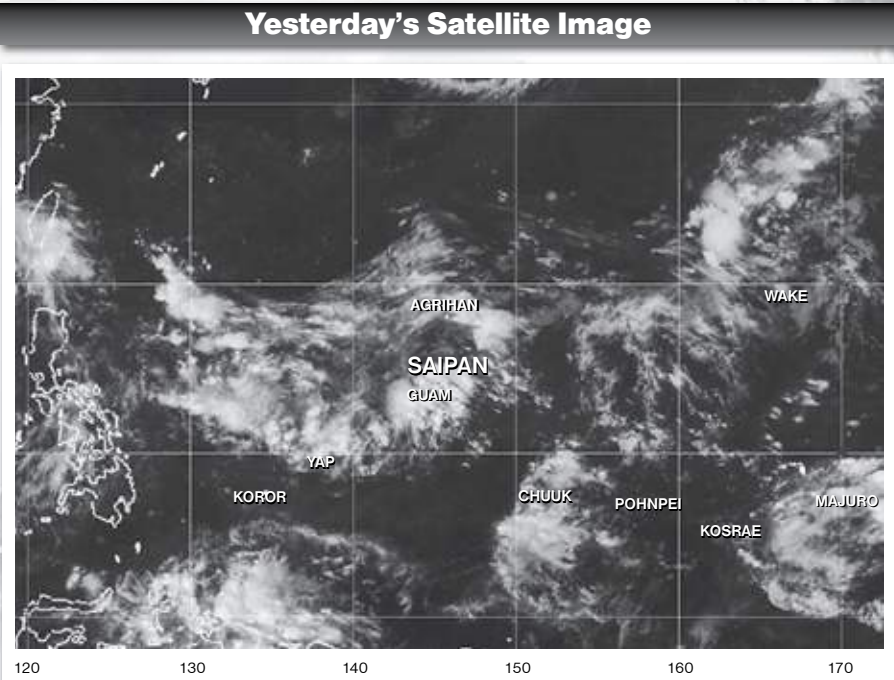
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Palau	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Yap	Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 82 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲ 88 ▼ 75
Kosrae	Rain	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Majuro	Rain	▲ 86 ▼ 77

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Showers	▲ 56 ▼ 49
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 66
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 73
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 74
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 53
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 92 ▼ 69
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 41
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 92 ▼ 81
New York	Showers	▲ 72 ▼ 66
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲ 93 ▼ 76
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 54
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲ 83 ▼ 76
Rome	Sunny	▲ 89 ▼ 68
Salem	Sunny	▲ 95 ▼ 57
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 64
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲ 82 ▼ 73
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 72 ▼ 67

Tides				
Saipan Harbor				
1:35 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet	
6:44 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
1:48 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet	
8:18 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trade-wind disturbance passing through the Marianas and a developing monsoon trough are producing scattered showers over a large area between 11N and 20N from 130E to 145E including the Marianas. Upper-level divergence southeast of an upper low centered northwest of the CNMI near 21N140E is enhancing this convection to trigger a few thunderstorms. Low-level convergence is combining with upper-level divergence to produce a few showers and isolated thunderstorms west and northwest of Wake Island within 150 miles of a line from 16N155E to 25N164E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers south of Palau between the equator and 3N from 135E to 142E south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between 2N and 5N from 152E to 158E and at Majuro but south of Kwajalein within an area bounded by a line from 6N166E to EQ180 to 9N180 to 9N176E back to 6N166E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:04 AM	6:35 PM	Today	6:09 PM	5:24 AM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:34 PM	Wednesday	6:44 PM	6:11 AM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:34 PM	Thursday	7:19 PM	6:57 AM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM	Friday	7:54 PM	7:43 AM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM	Saturday	8:30 PM	8:30 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 16, 2010									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM					GUAM-ROTA (ROP)				
CO9597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5		CO9598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7	
SAIPAN-GUAM					GUAM-SAIPAN				
CO9317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily		CO9316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily	
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily		CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily	
CO9601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		CO9600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily	
CO9603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily		CO9602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
CO9605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily		CO9604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily	
CO9599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily		CO9606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily		DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily	
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily		DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily	
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily		DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-NAGOYA					NAGOYA-SAIPAN				
DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily		DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)					OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN				
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily		OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5		OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1		OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7	
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX	
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX		OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7	
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7		OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6		FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-BEIJING					BEIJING-SAIPAN				
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5		CA987	6:40pm	1:55am +1	4, 7	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN		OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO	
CO9317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM		DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT	
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT		CO890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM	
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO		OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN	
CO9603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM		OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
CO9603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM- Palau		PR110/CO9596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
CO9599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		CO892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM- Palau	
					CO934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG					HONG KONG-SAIPAN				
OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN		OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN	
CO9603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM		OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
					CO910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM	
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)									

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE									
Airline		ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline		ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota					FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily	
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily		FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily	
Rota-Saipan					FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily	
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily		FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily	
Guam-Rota					FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily	
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily		FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily	
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily		FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily	
Saipan-Rota					Tinian-Saipan				
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily		FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily	
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily		FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily	
Saipan-Rota					FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily	
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily		FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily	
Rota-Guam					FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily	
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily		FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily	
Saipan-Tinian					FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily	
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily		FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily	
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily		FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily	
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily		FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily	
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily		FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily	
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily		FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily	
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily		FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily	

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: <

Business

Farms recalling eggs share suppliers, other ties

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two Iowa farms that recalled more than a half-billion eggs linked to as many as 1,300 cases of salmonella poisoning share suppliers of chickens and feed as well as ties to an Iowa business routinely cited for violating state and federal law.

Food and Drug Administration investigators have yet to determine the cause of the salmonella outbreaks at Wright County Egg and Hillandale Farms. The FDA investigation could take months, and sources of contamination are often difficult to find.

The number of illnesses, which can be life-threatening, especially to those with weakened immune systems, is expected to increase. The most common symptoms are diarrhea, abdominal cramps and fever eight to 72 hours of eating a contaminated product.

The company Quality Egg supplies young chickens and feed to both Wright County Egg and Hillandale Farms. The two share other suppliers, said Jewanna Porter, a spokeswoman for the egg industry, but she did not name them.

The egg industry has consolidated over recent years, placing fewer, larger businesses in control over much of the nation's egg supply to consumers.

The salmonella outbreak has raised questions about federal inspections of egg farms. The FDA oversees inspections of shell eggs, while the Agriculture Department is in charge of inspecting other egg products.

William D. Marler, a Seattle attorney for a person who filed suit alleging illness from tainted eggs in a salad at a restaurant in Kenosha, Wis., said Sunday his firm has been retained by two dozen families and was representing a woman who was hospitalized in California.

"The history of ignoring the law makes the sickening of 1,300 and the forced recall of 550 million eggs shockingly understandable," Marler said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "You have to wonder where the USDA and FDA inspectors were."

Businessman Austin "Jack" DeCoster owns Wright County Egg and Quality Egg. Wright County Egg recalled 380 million eggs Aug. 13 after it was linked to more than 1,000 cases of salmonella poisoning. A week later, Hillandale Farms recalled 170 million eggs.

DeCoster is no stranger to controversy in his food and farm operations:

■ In 1994, the state of Iowa assessed at least four separate penalties against DeCoster

Farms for environmental violations, many of them involving hog waste.

■ In 1997, DeCoster Egg Farms agreed to pay \$2 million in fines to settle citations brought in 1996 for health and safety violations at DeCoster's farm in Turner, Maine. The nation's labor secretary at the time, Robert Reich, said conditions were "as dangerous and oppressive as any sweatshop." Reich's successor, Alexis Herman, called the state of the farms "simply atrocious," citing unguarded machinery, electrical hazards, exposure to harmful bacteria and other unsanitary conditions.

■ In 2000, Iowa designated DeCoster a "habitual violator" of environmental regulations for problems that included hog manure runoff into waterways. The label made him subject to increased penalties and prohibited him from building new farms.

■ In 2002, the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission announced a more than \$1.5 million settlement of an employment discrimination lawsuit against DeCoster Farms on behalf of Mexican women who reported they were subjected to sexual harassment, including rape, abuse and retaliation by some supervisory workers at De-



AP
Buildings at the egg operations run by Wright County Egg on Highway 69, near Galt, Iowa, are shown Friday, Aug. 20, 2010.

Coster's Wright County plants.

■ In 2007, 51 workers were arrested during an immigration raid at six DeCoster egg farms. His farms had been the subject of at least three previous raids.

For Gulf tourism, problem is perception—not oil

BILOXI, Miss. (AP)—On the great yawning porch that once belonged to Confederate president Jefferson Davis, two women sit in rockers listening to the cicadas and looking out over Mississippi Sound as they wait for their tour to begin.

Before Hurricane Katrina, some 200 people came each day to visit the house—the only structure on the oak-shaded Beauvoir estate not destroyed by the storm. And that's just what's needed to break even. Tourism has dropped off 20 percent here, with just a

few visitors on some days since BP PLC's well blew out in the Gulf of Mexico.

The story here is mirrored across the Gulf Coast. Beaches have been cleaned of crude, the leak has been plugged and some cities never had oil wash ashore at all. Still, tourists stay away from what they fear are oil-coated coastlines—a perception officials say could take years to overcome and cost the region billions of dollars.

"We had Katrina, then the recession and now we have the

\$100,000 to the Maine Department of Agriculture over animal cruelty allegations that were spurred by a hidden-camera investigation by an animal welfare organization.

oil," said Rick Forte, executive director of the Beauvoir estate. "It's hard to overcome this when no one is coming."

With the summer tourist season coming to a close after Labor Day weekend, destinations are scrambling to keep businesses afloat and hang on to the region's 400,000 travel industry jobs. Some are trying discounts, special concerts and celebrity-endorsed commercials inviting residents to visit attractions once seen as havens for out-of-towners in their hometowns.

What do you do in case of a reduction-in-force?

By **FRANK GIBSON**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

With all of the news articles and talk about reduction-in-force (RIF), both in the government and private businesses, a lot of people have asked me what they should do. Some of those asking are employees who are concerned that they might be affected and some are managers who are not happy with the thought of cutting hours or having to terminate good employees.

Well, what should you do? That depends, of course, on your position in the organization. Reductions-in-force sometimes occur when a company realizes that its staffing has grown out of control and the number of staff exceeds the need. More often it results from economic problems where revenues decline and expenses start to exceed revenues—and, again, the number of staff exceeds the need. No one likes to implement a reduction-in-force, but it sometimes becomes necessary for the continued survival of the company. When it is implemented, good employees lose income or jobs, and the remaining staff usually acquires increased work to pick up the slack.

Senior Management. Make sure that all other alternatives have been viewed before implementing a RIF. Once determined necessary, conduct it with as much fairness, concern, and empathy as possible, realizing the personal disaster this will be for the affected employees. Give employees as much advance warning as possible and comply with the WARN Act, if it applies, all local laws and relevant provisions of company policies and employee contracts. If possible, set up an outplacement program to assist employees in finding new jobs. Monitor the RIF process to ensure employee rights are protected and they are treated with dignity.

Managers. I have heard some managers say that they will not deliver reduction-in-hours or termination letters to good employees. Unfortunately, despite their concern, if the point has been reached where a RIF has been determined necessary, the managers have probably already expressed their concerns, the concerns were considered, and the decision made to go ahead with the RIF. Rather than getting fired yourself and leaving it for others to do, break the bad news to your employees and do everything you can to make

their transition out as smooth as possible. Ensure that they receive all benefits due and, if possible, assist them in finding other employment. Then take care of your remaining staff and make sure that they don't become overwhelmed with the additional work.

The Human Resource Office. The HR Office was, in all likelihood, part of the team that looked at alternatives and determined that the RIF was necessary. The HRO must ensure that the company has a process to determine which employees will be affected by the RIF, based on the needs of the company and the performance, seniority and valuable skills of the employees. During the RIF, it should support and assist both managers and employees, answer questions, process termination benefits and make the RIF process as low-stress as possible. Establish a reemployment policy and, if possible, provide outplacement services. Ensure that the RIF process is conducted with dignity and respect for all employees.

Employees. When rumors begin about an impending RIF, start watching personal and family expenses and plan ahead for the possibility of being affected. Explore the job market, but don't let your job performance or conduct suffer. Learn about and understand the policy and system used to determine who will be affected. If it turns out that you will be, check the determination process to make sure your performance, seniority, and other factors were correctly considered. Don't take the RIF as a personal attack against you or a judgment on your performance—it's an administrative process. If you feel that your RIF status was miscalculated or that you were discriminated against in violation of EEO laws, use the company grievance policy to lodge a complaint. If you charge discrimination and it is not resolved to your satisfaction, you also can contact the EEOC. Ensure that you receive all benefits due, including the election of COBRA continuation, if healthcare insurance was one of your benefits. Work with HRO for outplacement assistance and obtain reference letters or commitments. Check your status on the reemployment listing. Update your resume. Contact CNMI Division of Employment Services.

NO MATTER WHAT, DON'T BURN BRIDGES. Don't lose your temper with managers or other staff, don't quit coming to work, damage equipment, or lose information. Foremost, it's wrong and unprofessional and also, you might want to work there again or use them for a reference.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asian shares mixed after tight Australia elections

TOKYO (AP)—Asian stock markets were mixed in early trading Monday, with Australian shares flat amid uncertainty over the result of weekend federal elections. The S&P/ASX 200 inched up 0.1 percent to 4,434.0 as Australia's two major political parties lobbied independent lawmakers to try to stitch together the nation's first minority government since World War II. The final results of Saturday's vote may not be known for a week or more, but both Labor and the Liberal Party-led opposition conceded neither would achieve the 76 seats needed to form a government in the lower chamber. Elsewhere, Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average fell 0.9 percent to 9,100.21, while Seoul's Kospi rose .01 percent to 1,776.0. In currencies, the dollar fell to 85.40 yen from 85.59 yen late Friday. The euro held steady at \$1.27.

Candy company in Pa. since Civil War moves to NJ

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A candy distributor based in Philadelphia since the Civil War has moved to New Jersey. Casani Candy Co. Inc. had been located in northeast Philadelphia since 2001, after spending a century in the Old City section. But it will now be located a 15-minute drive away in Pennsauken, N.J. Officials say a shopping center project forced the company to leave its Philly location and the property across the Delaware River was ready to move into. Casani dates to 1865. It still has close to 500 accounts, including mom-and-pop operations and locations on the New Jersey shore, which company president Jack Lees says is a market equal to Christmas. The company's main business is repackaging bulk candies for 25-, 10- and even 5-pound lots, but about half the candy is made abroad now.

Monastery plan on Wyoming ranch sparks debate

MEETEETSE, Wyo. (AP)—A proposal to build a 145,000-square-foot monastery and coffee-roasting barn on a remote Wyoming ranch drew so many opponents and supporters to a public hearing that a second session had to be scheduled. The New Mount Carmel Foundation of America wants to buy the 2,500-acre Elk Meadow Ranch outside Meeteetse in northwest Wyoming and build a French Gothic-style monastery for the Carmelite Order. Forty monks would live at the monastery. The coffee roasting facility would supply the group's Mystic Monk brand. The New Mount Carmel Foundation needs two permits from Park County, which require the approval of the planning and zoning commission and the county commissioners.

Nation

Rallies over mosque near ground zero get heated

NEW YORK (AP)—The proposed mosque near ground zero drew hundreds of fever-pitch demonstrators Sunday, with opponents carrying signs associating Islam with blood, supporters shouting, “Say no to racist fear!” and American flags waving on both sides.

The two leaders of the construction project, meanwhile, defended their plans, though one suggested that organizers might eventually be willing to discuss an alternative site. The other, Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, said during a Middle East trip that the attention generated by the project is actually positive and that he hopes it will bring greater understanding.

Around the corner from the cordoned-off old building that is to become a 13-story Islamic community center and mosque, police separated the two groups of demonstrators. There were no reports of physical clashes but there were some nose-to-nose confrontations, including a man and a woman screaming at each other across a barricade



A demonstrator in favor of the proposed Islamic center near ground zero makes his feelings known on Church Avenue, in lower Manhattan, Sunday, Aug. 22, 2010.

under a steady rain.

Opponents of the \$100 million project two blocks from the World Trade Center site appeared to outnumber supporters.

Bruce Springsteen’s “Born in the USA” blared over loudspeakers as mosque opponents chanted, “No mosque, no way!”

Signs hoisted by dozens

of protesters standing behind police barricades read “SHARIA”—using dripping, blood-red letters to describe Islam’s Shariah law, which gov-

erns the behavior of Muslims.

Steve Ayling, a 40-year-old Brooklyn plumber who carried his sign to a dry spot by an office building, said the people behind the mosque project are “the same people who took down the twin towers.”

Opponents demand that the mosque be moved farther from the site where more than 2,700 people were killed on Sept. 11, 2001. “They should put it in the Middle East,” Ayling said.

On a nearby sidewalk, police chased away a group that unfurled a banner with images of beating, stoning and other torture they said was committed by those who followed Islamic law.

A mannequin wearing a keffiyeh, a traditional Arab headdress, was mounted on one of two mock missiles that were part of an anti-mosque installation. One missile was inscribed with the words: “Again? Freedom Targeted by Religion”; the other with “Obama: With a middle name Hussein. We understand. Bloomberg: What is your excuse?”

New York Mayor Michael

Bloomberg has fiercely defended plans for the proposed mosque, saying that the right “to practice your religion was one of the real reasons America was founded.”

The mosque project is being led by Rauf and his wife, Daisy Khan, who insist the center will promote moderate Islam. The dispute has sparked a national debate on religious freedom and American values and is becoming an issue on the campaign trail ahead of the midterm elections. Republicans have been critical of President Barack Obama’s stance: He has said the Muslims have the right to build the center at the site but has not commented on whether he thinks they should.

Rauf is in the middle of a Mid-east trip funded by the U.S. State Department that is intended to promote religious tolerance. He told a gathering Sunday at the U.S. ambassador’s residence in the Persian Gulf state of Bahrain that he took heart from the dispute over the mosque, saying “the fact we are getting this kind of attention is a sign of success.”

LA unveils \$578M school, costliest in the nation

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Next month’s opening of the Robert F. Kennedy Community Schools will be auspicious for a reason other than its both storied and infamous history as the former Ambassador Hotel, where the Democratic presidential contender was assassinated in 1968. With an eye-popping price tag of \$578 million, it will mark the inauguration of the nation’s most expensive public school ever.

The K-12 complex to house 4,200 students has raised eyebrows across the country as the creme de la creme of “Taj Mahal” schools, \$100 million-plus campuses boasting both architectural panache and deluxe amenities.

“There’s no more of the old, windowless cinderblock schools of the ‘70s where kids felt, ‘Oh, back to jail,’” said Joe Agron, editor-in-chief of American School & University, a school construction journal. “Districts want a showpiece for the community, a really impressive environment for learning.”

Not everyone is similarly enthusiastic.

“New buildings are nice, but when they’re run by the same



In this photo taken on Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2010, the Visual and Performing Arts High School is seen in Los Angeles.

people who’ve given us a 50 percent dropout rate, they’re a big waste of taxpayer money,” said Ben Austin, executive director of Parent Revolution who sits on the California Board of Education. “Parents aren’t fooled.”

At RFK, the features include fine art murals and a marble memorial depicting the complex’s namesake, a manicured public park, a state-of-the-art swimming pool and preservation of pieces of the original hotel.

Partly by circumstance and

partly by design, the Los Angeles Unified School District has emerged as the mogul of Taj Mahals.

The RFK complex follows on the heels of two other LA schools among the nation’s costliest—the \$377 million Edward R. Roybal Learning Center, which opened in 2008, and the \$232 million Visual and Performing Arts High School that debuted in 2009.

The pricey schools have come during a sensitive period

for the nation’s second-largest school system: Nearly 3,000 teachers have been laid off over the past two years, the academic year and programs have been slashed. The district also faces a \$640 million shortfall and some schools persistently rank among the nation’s lowest performing.

Los Angeles is not alone, however, in building big. Some of the most expensive schools are found in low-performing districts—New York City has a \$235 million campus; New Brunswick, N.J., opened a \$185 million high school in January.

Nationwide, dozens of schools have surpassed \$100 million with amenities including atriums, orchestra-pit auditoriums, food courts, even bamboo nooks. The extravagance has led some to wonder where the line should be drawn and whether more money should be spent on teachers.

“Architects and builders love this stuff, but there’s a little bit of a lack of discipline here,” said Mary Filardo, executive director of 21st Century School Fund in Washington, D.C., which promotes urban school construction.

single swipe of their massive, clawed paws.

In the latest attack, a Michigan man was killed and two others injured when an undernourished bear and her three cubs marauded through a crowded campground near Cooke City, Mont. on July 28. A month earlier, a botanist from Cody, Wyo. was killed by a bear shortly after the animal woke up from being tranquilized by researchers.

Watch out for Yellowstone bears—they’re hungry

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)—Yellowstone’s grizzlies are going to be particularly hungry this fall, and that means more dangerous meetings with humans in a year that is already the area’s deadliest on record.

Scientists report that a favorite food of many bears, nuts from whitebark pine cones, is scarce. So as grizzlies look to put on some major pounds in preparation for the long winter

ahead, scientists say, they will be looking for another source of protein—meat—and running into trouble along the way.

Wildlife managers already report bears coming down off the mountains and into areas frequented by hunters, berry pickers and hikers.

“Pack your bear spray: there’s going to be run-ins,” said grizzly researcher Chuck Schwartz with the U.S. Geological Survey.

Two people have been fatally mauled by grizzlies so far this year in Wyoming and Montana. Experts said that’s the most in one year in at least a century for the Yellowstone region, which also includes parts of Idaho.

The bears in both instances were later killed.

Full-grown Yellowstone bears can stand 6 feet tall and top 600 pounds. They have been known to peel off a man’s face with a

ACROSS THE NATION

Blagojevich won’t rule out return to politics

CHICAGO (AP)—Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich thinks a future in politics is still a possibility. Blagojevich said he won’t rule out another run for political office if federal prosecutors fail to convict him at a second trial, according to an interview on “Fox News Sunday.” His comments came days after he was convicted of lying to federal agents. Jurors, however, deadlocked on 23 other more serious charges, including that he had tried to sell President Barack Obama’s old Senate seat. Federal prosecutors have said they will retry Blagojevich on those charges, but the former governor insisted that he will be vindicated. A federal judge has scheduled a Thursday hearing to decide the manner and timing of a retrial.

More than 80 arrested at LA rave party

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Authorities say more than 80 young people were arrested at a rave party in Los Angeles, most on drugs charges. Los Angeles Fire Department officials say paramedics treated 16 people for minor injuries at the 18th Annual Love Festival late Saturday and early Sunday and three concertgoers were taken to hospitals. A handful of minors were arrested for using false identifications to attempt to enter the electronic music party, attended by about 4,100 people. Partygoers had to prove they were at least 18 years old, and all were searched for contraband, especially illegal drugs.

27 arrested in Arizona rival biker shootout

CHINO VALLEY, Ariz. (AP)—Arizona authorities say 27 people have been booked on charges ranging from attempted murder to participation in a criminal street gang after shootings involving members of rival motorcycle gangs, the Vagos and Hells Angels. Detectives estimate at least 50 rounds were fired Saturday during the shootings in the small community of Chino Valley, north of Prescott. Yavapai sheriff’s spokesman Dwight D’Evelyn says at least five people were shot but none of the wounds was life-threatening. He says detectives are trying to locate one injured gang member who was helped away from the scene in an unknown vehicle. The shootings brought dozens of Arizona law enforcement officers to the scene.

High winds leave 12,000 Utah homes without power

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Wind gusts of more than 75 mph left about 12,000 homes and business without power across northern Utah’s Wasatch Front late Sunday. Rocky Mountain Power spokesman Dave Eskelsen says power was being returned to some locations, but some customers could be without electricity overnight. Outages were reported in Salt Lake City, Riverdale and Bountiful. Eskelsen says power lines were down in multiple locations, including across Interstate 80, closing traffic lanes in both directions for hours.

Asia

Ex-policeman in RP holds tourists hostage

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A dismissed policeman armed with an automatic rifle seized a bus in the Philippine capital Monday with 25 passengers, most of them Hong Kong tourists, in a bid to demand his reinstatement, police said.

Six hostages, including three children, were subsequently released, and appeared to be unhurt.

Police sharpshooters took positions around the white-blue-red bus, which was parked near

a downtown Manila park, and negotiations to free the remaining hostages were under way, deputy director of Manila police Alex Gutierrez said.

Two of the Hong Kong tourists, both women, were the first to be released, followed by three young children and a woman accompanying them, Manila police chief Rodolfo Magtibay said. Police had earlier reported that the tourists were from South Korea but later corrected themselves.

Hong Thai Travel Services Ltd. General Manager Susanna Lau told Hong Kong's Cable TV that the bus was carrying a Hong Kong tour guide and 20 tourists—three children and 17 adults—and a local tour guide.

She said the group left Aug. 20 for a visit to Manila and was scheduled to fly back to Hong Kong on Monday.

Magtibay said the others on the bus included three Filipinos—a driver, a guide and a photographer.

The hostage-taker, identified as former Senior Inspector Rolando Mendoza, 55, was armed with an M16 rifle. He demanded that he be given back his job on the police force a year after he was fired, Magtibay said.

Mendoza hitched a ride on the bus from the historic walled city of Intramuros and then “declared he is taking the passengers hostage” when the bus reached Jose Rizal Park alongside Manila Bay.

The area also includes the seaside U.S. Embassy and a number of hotels.

The curtains on the bus win-

dows were drawn and live TV footage showed two police negotiators walking to and from the bus and communicating with Mendoza from the window near the driver's seat.

Magtibay said they were also using the driver's cell phone to talk to Mendoza. A brother of Mendoza was helping police in the negotiations, Magtibay said.

“We should really resolve this quickly so that it will not have a wider effect,” Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim said.

According to newspapers reports from 2008, Mendoza was among five police officers who had been charged with robbery, extortion and grave threats after a Manila hotel chef filed a complaint alleging the policemen falsely accused him of using drugs to extort money.

Mendoza's younger brother, Gregorio, also a policeman, said that his brother felt that “injustice was done on him.”

“He was disappointed that he did well in police service but was dismissed for a crime he did not do,” he said.

In March 2007, not far from Monday's hostage taking, a man took a busload of children and teachers hostage from his day-care center in Manila to denounce corruption. They were freed after a 10-hour standoff.



Hostage negotiators, left and right, talk to foreign tourists taken hostage by Police Senior Inspector Rolando Mendoza after securing their release at Manila's Rizal Park Monday Aug. 23, 2010 in Manila, Philippines. AP

ASIAN BRIEFS

Official: Seoul not considering food aid to NKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea has no intention of resuming its food aid to North Korea, an official said Monday, a day after the ruling party chief questioned whether the assistance should restart because of recent flooding in the impoverished North. For a decade, South Korea was a major donor of food to the North, before President Lee Myung-bak's conservative government halted unconditional assistance after taking office in early 2008. Lee's government also cut nearly all trade with North Korea after tension spiked over March's deadly sinking of a South Korean warship blamed on Pyongyang. The North's economy is in shambles and the country has relied on outside food aid to feed much of its 24 million people. The North's chronic food shortage was feared to worsen after flooding from an overflowing river over the weekend swamped farmland, houses and public buildings in the North's northwestern city of Sinuiju.

4 US troops killed in eastern Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Four U.S. troops were killed in fighting in eastern and southern Afghanistan on Sunday, and a former guerrilla leader who battled Soviet invaders decades ago was killed by a roadside bomb in the country's north. Three of the U.S. casualties died in insurgent attacks and one was killed by a homemade bomb, NATO said. The deaths bring the number of international forces killed in Afghanistan this month to 42, including 28 Americans, according to a count by The Associated Press. Sixty-six American troops were killed in July, making it the deadliest month for U.S. forces in Afghanistan since the 2001 invasion. The exact places where the casualties occurred were not given, although heavy fighting was reported in Jaji district of eastern Paktiya province, about 12 miles (20 kilometers) from

the border with Pakistan.

7 people reported missing by landslide in Vietnam

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—A disaster official says seven people have been reported missing and feared dead in a landslide that happened during sunny weather in northern Vietnam. Pham Quoc Hung says more than 100 soldiers have been mobilized to search for the victims, including two children who were buried under up to 30 feet (10 meters) of earth and rocks following the landslide Sunday in Yen Bai province. The victims were harvesting corn when the landslide occurred on a sunny day, Hung said Monday, adding that there were slight rains in the area during previous days. Authorities still don't know the cause of the landslide, he said.

Video of mob killings sparks anguish in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The Pakistani men took turns savagely beating the two teenage brothers with sticks, drawing blood before dragging and hanging their dead bodies from a nearby pole. None of the dozens of people watching tried to stop the attack, not even several police. The boys may have been mistaken for robbers. The scene, caught on video and broadcast on news channels, has outraged and anguished Pakistanis, some of whom are asking if years of state neglect have brutalized society. It also is a blow to the already-shoddy image of the government as it appeals for international aid to cope with disastrous floods. “Is this what we are? Savages?” asked an editorial in The News, an English-language daily. “So utterly bereft of a speck of humanity that a crowd of ordinary men are passive spectators to public murder?” The killings occurred Aug. 15 in Sialkot, a town in eastern Punjab province. As details have emerged, authorities appear increasingly confident the two boys—Moiz Butt, 17, and his brother Muneeb, 15—were innocent.

Next US target: The birthplace of the Taliban

HOWZ-E-MADAD, Afghanistan (AP)—As Lt. Col. Peter N. Benchhoff prepares for an assault next month into the birthplace of the Taliban, he doesn't sugarcoat the hurdles his troops face in this crucial swath of southern Afghanistan.

“Security sucks. Development? Nothing substantial. Information campaign? Nobody believes us. Governance? We've had one, hour-long visit by a government official in the last 2 1/2 months,” the battalion commander says. “Taliban is the home team here.”

“Here” is 116 square miles (300 square kilometers) of Zhari, a district just west of Kandahar through which the insurgents funnel fighters, drugs, explosives and stage attacks into the city.

It's also an iconic, psychologically significant spot for the Taliban. Just about two miles (three kilometers) south of the main U.S. base of Howz-e-Madad, Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar ran an Islamic school, founded the movement in 1994, and nearby hung a warlord from

the barrel of a tank after he raped two teenagers.

Senior commanders call the fight for Zhari the next step—Phase 3—of a wider campaign to pacify Kandahar, the country's second largest city, and surrounding countryside. They argue success in Kandahar could lead to overall victory, given that the Taliban's power base is rooted in this region.

Zhari itself remains insurgent territory despite five major NATO operations in recent years. In September 2006, a Canadian-led force launched

a major operation in Zhari and nearby Panjwai district, pushing out the Taliban but at a cost of 28 coalition lives. Months later, the Taliban were back.

Militarily, Benchhoff will have to seize the village of Singesar, site of Mullah Omar's school now defended by fortified trenches, mortars and mines, and stop Taliban movements and ambushes along Highway 1 and a parallel dirt road dubbed Iron City. Getting the area's 10,000 inhabitants to sever their links to the Taliban may prove even harder.

Rain batters China; 250,000 evacuated in flood

BEIJING (AP)—Flooding forced the evacuation of more than 250,000 people in the northern China along its border with North Korea, state media said Monday.

Heavy rains over the last several days caused the Yalu river, which marks the border, to breach its banks, although the water level had started to fall late Sunday, the official Xinhua News Agency state media said Monday.

It said four people died, including a couple in their 70s and a mother and son, after their homes in Dandong were swept away by flash floods. Xinhua said 253,500 residents have been evacuated

after the Yalu rose to its highest level in a decade.

An official with the Water Resources Department in Liaoning province, where Dandong is located, confirmed that four people had died though he was unable to provide details. He refused to give his name because he was not authorized to speak with the media.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said torrential rain and water from the overflowing Yalu—or Amnok as it is known in Korean—swamped houses, public buildings and farmland in more than five villages near Sinuiju, the city opposite Dandong.

The report described Sinuiju and the surrounding area as having been “severely affected” by the flooding and said officials, the military and ordinary civilians were involved in rescue work. It said at least 5,150 people had been evacuated and residents were clambering on rooftops or taking shelter on hilltops.

Much of North Korea's trade with the world passes through the city, forming a vital lifeline for the isolated, economically struggling country. Flooding in previous years has destroyed crops and pushed North Korea deeper into poverty, increasing its dependence on international food aid.

For China, the Dandong flooding is the latest disaster in the country's worst flood season in over a decade. Landslides caused by heavy rains have smothered communities in western China and accounted for most of the more than 2,500 people killed.

Authorities in the northwestern province of Gansu on Sunday called off rescue efforts for 330 people still missing after an Aug. 8 mudslide tore through Zhouqu county, killing 1,435 people, Xinhua said. The Zhouqu government forbade digging in the debris, fearing that recovering corpses buried for two weeks would spread disease.

World

Joy in Chile: 33 miners trapped 17 days are alive

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—Chile's president euphorically waved the note, written deep inside a collapsed mine, that his country waited 17 agonizing days to see: "All 33 of us are fine in the shelter," one of the trapped miners wrote in red letters.

Authorities and relatives of the miners hugged, climbed a nearby hill, planted 33 flags and sang the national anthem Sunday after a probe sent some 2,257 feet (688 meters) deep into the mine came back with the note. "Today all of Chile is crying with excitement and joy," President Sebastian Pinera said.

The miners' ordeal may have just begun: Rescuers say it could take four months—until around Christmas—to get them out.

The men already have been trapped underground longer than all but a few miners rescued in recent history. Last year, three miners survived 25 days trapped in a flooded mine in southern China, and two miners in northeast China were rescued after 23 days in 1983. Few other rescues have taken more than two weeks.

For the moment, however, news that the men even survived an Aug. 5 tunnel collapse outshines all other details.

A video camera lowered down the probe shaft showed some of the miners, stripped to the waist

and its resulting tsunami, which together killed at least 521 people and left 200,000 homeless.

"I am OK thanks to God. I hope to get out soon," wrote one of the trapped miners, Mario Gomez. "Patience and faith. God is great and the help of my God is going to make it possible to leave this mine alive."

Gomez, 63, appeared to be aware that it will take a long time for rescuers to reach him

and his fellow miners. "Even if we have to wait months to communicate. ... I want to tell everyone that I'm good and we'll surely come out OK," he said.

Mine officials and relatives of the workers had hoped the men reached a shelter inside the mine when the tunnel collapsed the San Jose gold and copper mine about 530 miles (850 kilometers) north of the capital, Santiago. But they had said air

and food supplies would only last 48 hours.

Rescuers drilled repeatedly in an effort to reach the shelter, but failed seven times; they blamed

the errors on the mining company's maps. According to Gomez's note, at least some of those probes were close enough that the trapped miners heard them.

4 decapitated bodies hung from a bridge in Mexico

CUERNAVACA, Mexico (AP)—The decapitated bodies of four men were hung from a bridge Sunday in this central Mexican city besieged by fighting between two drug lords.

A gang led by kingpin Hector Beltran Leyva took responsibility for the killings in a message left with the bodies, the attorney general's office of Morelos state said in a statement.

The beheaded and mutilated bodies were hung by their feet early Sunday from the bridge in Cuernavaca, a popular weekend getaway for Mexico City residents.

Cuernavaca has become a battleground for control of the Beltran Leyva cartel since its leader, Arturo Beltran Leyva, was killed there in a December shootout with marines.

Mexican authorities say the cartel split between a faction led by Hector Beltran Leyva, brother of Arturo, and another led by Edgar Valdez Villarreal, a U.S.-born kingpin known as "the Barbie."

The message left with the bodies threatened: "This is what will happen to all those who support the traitor Edgar Valdez Villarreal."

Authorities said the four

men had been kidnapped days earlier. The family of one of the men reported the abduction to police.

In western Mexico, police found the body of a U.S. citizen inside a car along the highway between the Pacific resorts of Acapulco and Zihuatanejo.

A report from Guerrero state police said the man was shot to death and had identification indicating he was from Georgia.

The U.S. Embassy could not be reached to confirm the man's identity.

Police said they had no suspects and had not determined a motive.

Guerrero state has been wracked by drug-gang violence, including the strife within the Beltran Leyva cartel. There have also been a series of deadly carjackings this year along highways in the state.

Mexico has seen unprecedented gang violence since President Felipe Calderon stepped up the fight against drug trafficking when he took office in December 2006, deploying thousands of troops and federal police to cartel strongholds.

Since then, more than 28,000 people have been killed in violence tied to Mexico's drug war.



Chile's President Sebastian Pinera holds up a plastic bag containing a message, from miners trapped in a collapsed mine, that reads in Spanish "We are ok in the refuge, the 33 miners" in Copiapo, Chile, Sunday Aug. 22, 2010.

Wyclef Jean: I'm not giving up my bid for prez yet

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Hip-hop singer Wyclef Jean said Sunday he is not abandoning his presidential bid just yet and will try to get the courts to overturn a decision disqualifying him from the race.

Speaking to The Associated Press by telephone from his home in Croix des Bouquets, Jean said his lawyers will file an appeal with the national electoral dispute office.

Jean said that he has a document "which shows everything is correct" and that he and his aides "feel that what is going on here has everything to do with Haitian politics."

"They are trying to keep us out of the race," he said, referring to Haiti's political establishment.

Haiti's elections board rejected Jean's candidacy Friday night—presumably because it decided he didn't meet residency requirements, although the board did not cite a specific reason. Under Haitian law, a presidential candidate must have lived in the country for five consecutive years leading up to the election.

Jean has argued that he was not required to comply with the law so strictly because after President Rene Preval appointed him as roving ambassador in

2007, he was allowed to travel and live outside the country.

Some officials in Haiti worried about political unrest among Jean supporters after his candidacy was rejected. But the singer asked his fans to stay calm, and there were no significant election-related protests or violence over the weekend—although rumors swirled about a large protest planned for Monday.

Many people in Jean's hometown of Croix des Bouquets—a suburb of the capital, Port-au-Prince—cheered the singer Sunday in his quest for the presidency.

"I love what Wyclef is do-

ing," said Paul Jean Augustine, a 27-year-old mechanic. "We're ready to die for Clef, and without him there's no election. We are with him 100 percent."

Although he issued a statement late Friday saying that "I respectfully accept the committee's final decision," the 40-year-old singer said Sunday that he is appealing the Haitian board's decision on the basis that it rejected his candidacy before the national electoral dispute office, or BCEN, could issue a final ruling on the residency issue.

Jean said that shortly after he filed his papers to run in the

Nov. 28 election, two Haitian citizens challenged his candidacy, saying he had not met the residency requirements.

WORLD BRIEFS

Israeli PM stakes out positions for peace talks

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's prime minister demanded Sunday that any future Palestinian state be demilitarized and recognize Israel as the Jewish homeland, as he staked out his starting position for new Mideast peace talks. Benjamin Netanyahu said reaching a deal will be difficult but possible. The conditions he laid down, coupled with a swift Palestinian rejection, illustrated just how difficult the task will be for the U.S. to meet its goal of brokering peace within a year. Talks are set to begin in Washington next week. "We want to surprise all of the critics and skeptics. But to do that we need a real partner on the Palestinian side," Netanyahu told his Cabinet Sunday. "If we discover that we have such a partner, we will be able to quickly reach a historic agreement between the two peoples."

Iran inaugurates nation's first unmanned bomber

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Sunday inaugurated the country's first domestically built unmanned bomber aircraft, calling it an "ambassador of death" to Iran's enemies. The 4-meter-long drone aircraft can carry up to four cruise missiles and will have a range of 620 miles (1,000 kilometers), according to a state TV report—not far enough to reach archenemy Israel. "The jet, as well as being an ambassador of death for the

enemies of humanity, has a main message of peace and friendship," said Ahmadinejad at the inauguration ceremony, which fell on the country's national day for its defense industries. The goal of the aircraft, named Karrar or striker, is to "keep the enemy paralyzed in its bases," he said, adding that the aircraft is for deterrence and defensive purposes.

NY mosque imam: Attention from project is positive

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—The imam spearheading plans for an Islamic center near ground zero said Sunday the attention generated by the project is positive and he hopes it will bring greater understanding. Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf's plans for an Islamic cultural center about two blocks from the World Trade Center site have sparked a political firestorm in the United States. Foes of the project say it is insensitive and disrespectful to the victims of 9/11 and their families. The debate has become politicized ahead of November's midterm congressional elections. But Rauf, who is on the first leg of a 15-day Mideast tour funded by the U.S. State Department, took heart from the dispute, saying "the fact we are getting this kind of attention is a sign of success." "It is my hope that people will understand more," the imam told a gathering at the U.S. Ambassador's residence in the Persian Gulf state of Bahrain. He did not elaborate.



Haitian-born singer and presidential candidate Wyclef Jean, second left, walks surrounded by security after Haiti's Electoral Council rejected his candidacy in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Friday, Aug. 20, 2010.

Focus

‘I’m the Patrick Henry of the 21st century. I’m here to regain our freedom. I’m going to, or die trying.’

They call themselves sovereign citizens, U.S. residents who declare themselves above state and federal laws. Many don’t register children’s births, carry driver’s licenses or recognize the court system.

Some peddle schemes that use fictional legal loopholes to eliminate debt and avoid foreclosures.

A few such believers are violent: Two police officers in Arkansas died in a shootout in May after stopping an Ohio sovereign citizen and his son.

As many as 300,000 people identify as sovereign citizens, the Southern Poverty Law Center found in a study to be published Thursday that was obtained by The Associated Press. Hate group monitors say their numbers have increased thanks to the recession, the foreclosure crisis, the growth of the Internet and the election of Barack Obama in 2008.

Adherents expect the current American system of government to end one way or another.

“I’m the Patrick Henry of the 21st century. I’m here to regain our freedom,” James McBride said in a jailhouse interview. “I’m going to, or die trying.”

At the heart of their belief system: The government creates a secret iden-

tity for each citizen at birth, a “straw man,” that controls an account at the U.S. Treasury used as collateral for foreign debt. File enough documents at the right offices and the money in those accounts can be used to pay off debt or make purchases worth thousands of dollars.

The movement is based on a form of “legal fundamentalism,” said Michael Barkun, a retired Syracuse University political science professor who researches anti-government and hate groups.

“These people really seem to feel that filing certain kinds of legal papers that are connected to their theories will somehow also magically have the power to alter relationships and grant things that otherwise would be unobtainable,” he said.

Experts say sovereign citizens are the latest manifestation of anti-government activists going back to the Posse Comitatus movement of the 1970s, which recognized only local governments and no law enforcement official with more jurisdiction than a sheriff. In the 1980s, government protesters exploited the farm crisis by selling fraudulent debt relief programs.

“In good times they focus on tax cheating, in bad times they focus on getting out of debt,” said JJ MacNab,

an expert on tax and financial schemes and author of the SPLC report.

Martin Smith of Carthage, Mo., lost \$8,000 to a father-and-son company in Columbus called Liberty Resources that pitched a method to eliminate credit card debt based on a theory that national banks aren’t authorized to issue credit.

“We just became convinced that each of the parts of the puzzle that Liberty Resources ... was telling us existed would work,” said Smith, 48, a civil engineer in Carthage, Mo.

Dan Wickline and his son, Chad, pleaded guilty in 2008 to conspiracy to commit money laundering and are serving federal prison sentences.

In April, a group called the Guardians of the Free Republics sent letters to governors demanding they leave office or be removed. The group’s website calls for the restoration of lawful government and an end to tax forms, vehicle registrations and marriage licenses. An e-mail to the group was not returned.

Jim Jarvis is Ohio coordinator for the Restore America Plan, which shares similar beliefs with the Guardians group. He maintains the country has lacked a legitimate government since Congress failed to adjourn properly in 1861.

The people who are crazy, he says,

are those who won’t do the research to find out what’s really going on in the country.

The sovereign citizen movement has grown to about 100,000 hard-core believers, the SPLC report estimates, and 200,000 people trying out the theories by “resisting everything from speeding tickets to drug charges.”

The report cites IRS figures that estimated as many as 250,000 tax protesters in the mid-1990s, though not all of those were part of the sovereign citizen movement. The 300,000 figure is the first calculation of the movement’s numbers separate from tax protesters.

In May, Jerry Kane, who pitched so-called redemption schemes for reducing debt, died in a shootout with West Memphis, Ark., police after authorities said his 16-year-old son, Joe, fatally shot two officers during a traffic stop.

Kane’s Florida widow, Donna Lee Wray, denies her husband and stepson were sovereign citizens. She maintains a website that asserts they weren’t involved in the officers’ deaths.

In a 2003 document Jerry Kane filed in a county recorder’s office in Ohio, he said he was not a “Fourteen Amendment Citizen.” Many sovereign citizens believe the 14th Amendment created a new class of citizens, people who had no constitutional

rights but were instead slaves to the government, according to Mark Pitcavage, investigative researcher for the Anti-Defamation League.

McBride, the jailed sovereign citizen, came across anti-government beliefs while in federal prison in Michigan on a 1992 cocaine importation conviction.

Over the years he developed his own tenets, including a revised history of the United States that says the country was secretly organized as a general post office in 1789.

He dismisses any accusation that the programs he pitched were fraud, arguing he’s not subject to the laws of the U.S., which he calls a corporation along the lines of a car company.

“General Motor’s laws don’t affect me because I’m not an employee of them,” McBride said. “Same with the state of Ohio and the United States.”

Today, McBride is headed back to federal prison after prosecutors said he cashed bogus checks and refused to cooperate with his parole officers following a 2004 bankruptcy fraud conviction.

“I’m never going to have my grandchildren say, ‘Grandpa, why didn’t you do something to protect my rights?’” McBride said.

“They may say, ‘My grandpa died trying to protect my rights.’”

Sovereign citizens spin history, reject government

By **ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER



In this June 24, 2010 photo, James T. McBride discusses his governmental beliefs during an interview in Columbus, Ohio.

Overdrive

Bad looks cripple good traits in 2011 Infiniti QX56

The good aspects of the 2011 Infiniti QX are the ones Infiniti didn't change from the donor Nissan.

MTC



NUTS & BOLTS

2011 Infiniti QX56 4WD

Base price: \$60,665**Price, as tested:** \$72,475**Powertrain:** 5.6-liter, DOHC 32-valve V-8 engine; seven-speed automatic transmission**Horsepower:** 400 at 5,800 rpm**Torque:** 413 pound-feet at 4,000 rpm**Curb weight:** 5,850 lbs.**Wheelbase:** 121.1 inches**Overall length:** 208.3 inches**Fuel economy:** 14 mpg city/20 mpg highway**Final thoughts:** Just like lobster: odd outside, wonderful inside.

The good, the bad and the ugly. It's cliché, it's trite—and it's exactly how to describe Infiniti's 2011 QX56.

The "good" includes this full-size luxury SUV's interior, its drivetrain and its (relative) maneuverability. The "bad" describes its gas mileage, its aversion to getting dirty and some practical elements of the vehicle's design. And the "ugly" describes ... well, look at it.

In short, the QX looks weird. Which is unfortunate because if you're in the market for this type of vehicle, and you can get past the styling, it has a lot to offer.

This QX is a rebadged version of the newest Nissan Patrol, a relentlessly capable body-on-frame SUV offered elsewhere in the world. The Patrol's career arc is similar to Toyota's Land Cruiser: It started as a humble off-roader decades ago, and over time has shed its proletarian roots for more luxurious trappings while maintaining its rugged prowess.

The good aspects of the QX are the ones Infiniti didn't change from the donor Nissan.

We'll start inside first, since that's where it's easiest to enjoy the QX. Infiniti has hit its stride when it comes to

its interiors, and the QX is no exception. Everywhere you look, you'll find high-grade leathers (semi-aniline if you spring for the \$5,800 Deluxe Touring Package), wood trim and chrome accents mixed together tastefully. The navigation, audio system and HVAC controls cultivate the need for a fair number of buttons and switches, but they're laid out logically.

This makes it easier to access the impressive navigation system and Bose stereo, each with a laundry list of features you'd expect on a \$72,000 (as tested) SUV. Not content with merely sounding nice, the system also includes a 9.3-gigabyte hard drive and iPod integration. The touch-screen navigation system can also be controlled via the steering wheel and features XM traffic and weather info and a Zagat Survey restaurant guide.

Seats are thickly bolstered and comfortable, as one might expect from a vehicle bearing the likeness and dimensions of a humpback whale. Head room and legroom for front- and middle-row passengers are generous. Access to the rear seats is surprisingly easy because the middle seats flip and fold quickly out of the way. Space is tight back there, though, so leave that third row to the kids.

Seven-passenger seating is stan-

dard, with large captain's chairs in the middle row flanking a wide armrest. A 60/40 folding bench seat is available if you need to seat eight. Power-folding rear seats are also standard.

Another key item in the "good" column is the powertrain. At the heart of the QX is its 5.6-liter V-8, paired to a seven-speed automatic transmission. The engine is smooth, robust and hints of a sports car as you accelerate. It puts out 400 horsepower and 413 pound-feet of torque, up from 320 horsepower and 393 pound-feet of torque in the previous QX.

This increase in power brings it even with competitors such as the Cadillac Escalade and the Lexus LX 570. It also makes it a veritable drag-racer. Despite a curb weight of some 6,000 pounds for this four-wheel-drive model, Motor Trend magazine clocked the QX going zero to 60 in 6.1 seconds (Infiniti doesn't release official acceleration times). This gives you an idea of the amount of power the QX has available for towing or for accelerating on freeway onramps. A rear-wheel-drive model is also available.

Despite its girth, piloting the QX is no chore. Speed-sensitive steering is standard, and it has a very light feel to it, so much so that it takes a few trips to get accustomed to it. Parking is a

breeze thanks to the standard Around View Monitor. This system uses cameras in the grill, each of the side-view mirrors and the lift gate to project onto the navigation screen in the center console a virtual bird's-eye view of the QX and its surroundings. Very cool, and very useful.

The "bad" list for the QX starts with the gas mileage. Three tons and 400 horsepower do not an efficient vehicle make. The QX is rated at 14 miles per gallon in the city and 20 mpg on the highway, but after 600 miles of mostly highway driving, I averaged 13.6 mpg. This means your Prius-driving neighbor will stare eco-daggers into your back when you pull this beast into the driveway.

The 2011 QX has also lost some of the capabilities of its predecessor. Towing capacity is down to 8,500 pounds from 9,000; ground clearance is lower too. Various off-road aids found on the Patrol, including hill descent control and all-wheel-drive modes "Pavement," "Sand" and "Rock," are not available on the QX.

Twenty-inch wheels are standard, and the touring package adds titanic 22-inch, nine-spoke wheels. They're possibly the only attractive aspect of the QX's exterior. They also contribute to a commanding road presence. There

are few other vehicles, full-size trucks included, that seat its passengers higher than the QX. The downside to this is the rear bumper sits very high, making it difficult for the vertically challenged to load and access the trunk. The standard power-lift gate makes things easier, though the glass doesn't open independently, so any time you want something from the back, you have to wait for the power door.

And then there are the looks of the QX.

It looks like someone left it out in the sun too long and it began to melt. It looks like a pregnant rhinoceros. It just looks weird.

Apparently Infiniti was too wed to the idea of instilling the QX with the design language of the rest of their line. This is admirable with most vehicles, but applying it to a 6,000-pound full-size SUV is risky. Clearly. It's unduly bulbous, inflated and rotund. Perhaps the worst element is the tacky side vents on the front quarter panels. They look as if they were designed by "The Situation" from "Jersey Shore."

There's plenty of good, some bad and a whole mess of ugly. But the latter is subjective. And if full-size SUV customers don't care about the looks or think I need my eyes checked, there's really a lot to like.

Just watch out for those eco-daggers.

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Why don't we fuel cars with natural gas?

QUESTION: My boss and I were discussing alternative energy and we came up with the same question. Is there a movement to use natural gas instead of gasoline in passenger cars? From what little I understand, engines would not need too much modification to do so.

ANSWER: You are correct. Modern automotive engines and engine management systems need very little "adjustment" to operate on liquid natural gas. Vehicles designed, built or modified to do so are called NGVs, or natural-gas vehicles. There's little or no drivability or performance differences between the two fuels, but each has advantages and disadvan-

tages.

The advantages of natural gas are cleaner emissions—lower carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen and unburned hydrocarbons—and because of this, perhaps, less maintenance and mechanical wear and tear. Fuel costs are typically more stable and about one-third lower than gasoline. There may also be a safety advantage because fuel storage tanks on NGVs are substantially stronger than gas tanks on most motor vehicles.

Disadvantages? First and foremost, the availability of liquid natural gas. There are refueling stations, but they're few and far between compared with gasoline stations on nearly every corner. A century of gasoline distribution infrastructure

development is hard to beat.

Also, natural-gas vehicles tend to have less passenger room because the fuel storage containers are larger, heavier and occupy more space. That means less range, or miles-per-tankful, than a comparable size/power automobile.

It's also important to recognize that natural gas, like petroleum or gasoline, is not a renewable resource. U.S. natural gas reserves are large but not unlimited.

Several car companies have developed natural-gas vehicles, and a number of municipalities, law enforcement agencies, power companies and other large fleet operators have operated large numbers of them. That said, they're still just a mi-

nuscule percentage of the total number of motor vehicles.

Personally, I think the biggest factor is convenience—or lack thereof. If natural-gas fueling stations were as common as gasoline stations, the public would be far more receptive to natural-gas vehicles.

■ ■ ■

Q: Every few days, my 1995 Nissan Maxima would not turn over when I turned the key. No sound, no clicking, no nothing. The shop replaced the battery, but the next day the same issue. I fiddled around, and then the car started. Took it back, and they replaced the starter. Today, the same thing happened. Please help.

A: Well, you now know the starter and battery weren't

the problem, right? Any time a vehicle suffers from an intermittent "no crank" condition, the first suspects, in order of probability, are battery cables, connections and grounds, ignition switch and park/neutral or clutch interlock safety switch.

If by "fiddling" you mean wiggling the key while holding the switch in the "start" position, suspect the switch itself. If you mean wiggling the shift lever within its range of movement in "park" and/or "neutral," suspect the park/neutral safety switch.

If, when the engine won't crank, connecting a single jumper cable from the positive battery terminal and then to the positive terminal on the starter motor causes the engine to crank over—but not start since the ignition is "off"—the problem is

likely with the switches and/or harness. If this doesn't crank the engine over, it's likely a poor ground connection between the engine/drivetrain/chassis and the negative battery terminal. Take all safety precautions before this test by making sure the ignition is "off," parking brake is set and the transmission is in "park" or "neutral."

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via e-mail at paul.brand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.

Life & Style

Faulty alarms blamed for van Gogh theft in Egypt

CAIRO (AP)—None of the alarms and only seven out of 43 surveillance cameras were working at a Cairo museum where a Vincent van Gogh painting was stolen, Egypt's top prosecutor said Sunday.

Thieves made off with the canvas, known by the titles of "Poppy Flowers" and "Vase with Flowers," on Saturday from the Mahmoud Khalil Museum in the Egyptian capital.

Prosecutor general Abdel-Meguid Mahmoud told Egypt's state news agency Sunday that the thieves used a box cutter to remove the painting from its frame. He blamed the heist on the museum's lax security measures, calling them "for the most

part feeble and superficial."

The museum guards' daily rounds at closing time were inadequate and did not meet minimum security requirements to protect internationally renowned works of art, he said.

Mahmoud added that his office had warned Egypt's museums to implement stricter security controls after nine paintings were stolen last year from another Cairo institute, the Mohammed Ali Museum. Similar security lapses were to blame in that theft.

Fifteen Egyptian officials, including the director of the Khalil museum, Reem Bahir, and the head of the fine arts department at the Ministry of Culture, have been barred from

leaving Egypt until the investigation into the painting's theft is complete, Mahmoud said. He did not elaborate.

Bahir refused to comment on the prosecutor general's statements, saying only that the investigation was still under way.

On Saturday, Egypt's minister of culture, Farouk Hosni, said that police had confiscated the painting from an Italian couple at Cairo airport hours after it was stolen.

But Hosni later backtracked, saying his announcement was based on "false and incorrect" information. He said authorities were still searching for the missing painting, which he said is worth an estimated \$50 million.

It was not clear what caused the confusion over the artwork's fate.

This is the second time this painting by the Dutch-born postimpressionist has been stolen from the Khalil museum. Thieves first made off with the canvas in 1978, before authorities recovered it two years later at an undisclosed location in Kuwait. Officials have never fully revealed the details of that theft.

The 12-inch-by-12-inch (30-centimeter-by-30-centimeter) canvas, believed to have been painted in 1887, resembles a flower scene by the French artist Adolphe Monticelli, whose work deeply affected van Gogh. The Monticelli painting also is part of the Khalil collection.

US memorabilia dealer selling Salinger's toilet



This undated photo provided by Kernersville, N.C.-based company The Vault shows a toilet reportedly ripped from reclusive author J.D. Salinger's former home.

AP

KERNERSVILLE, North Carolina (AP)—A North Carolina collectibles dealer is hawking a toilet ripped from reclusive author J.D. Salinger's former home.

Rick Kohl of The Vault said Friday he bought the standard white porcelain fixture from a New Hampshire couple who owned a home where the author of "Catcher in the Rye" once lived.

To vouch that this is no phony, Kohl has a letter from the

homeowner attesting that she and her husband replaced the toilet while remodeling, and that they knew the workmen who installed it decades ago.

The receptacle has an eBay asking price of \$1 million, though Kohl says he's willing to see what the literary giant's home throne will fetch.

The toilet's lid is stamped with a manufacturing date of 1962, well after the 1951 publication date of Salinger's classic novel.

Michael Moore praises suspected WikiLeaks source

By **DAVID DISHNEAU**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HAGERSTOWN, Maryland (AP)—Michael Moore, the Oscar-winning filmmaker, will contribute \$5,000 to help defend the Army private suspected of leaking classified documents to an Internet whistle-blower from serving time in prison.

A champion of liberal and left-wing causes, Moore told The Associated Press in a telephone interview he also hopes to make the public understand that Pfc. Bradley Manning exposed what Moore called "war crimes."

"He did a courageous thing and he did a patriotic thing," Moore said.

Manning, 22, faces up to 52 years in prison if convicted of downloading classified material and passing it to an unauthorized person while working as an intelligence analyst in Iraq.

He is charged with leaking

video of a 2007 U.S. Apache helicopter attack that killed 11, including a Reuters news photographer and his driver. WikiLeaks posted the video on its website in April.

Investigators say Manning also is a person of interest in the release of 77,000 Afghanistan war logs that WikiLeaks published online in July.

U.S. officials say the July



Manning

disclosures endangered innocent people or confidential informants. Mike Gogulski, founder of the Bradley Manning Support Network, said he was delighted with Moore's support. The group is raising money for a civilian defense attorney for Manning.

Maj. Thomas F. Hurley, one of Manning's military lawyers, declined to comment.

Moore won the Academy Award for his 2002 documentary, "Bowling for Columbine."

On vacation, Obama tends to summer reading list

VINEYARD HAVEN, Massachusetts (AP)—In the first full day of a Martha's Vineyard vacation, President Barack Obama set aside some of the cares of office Friday to work on his family's summer reading list.

At a bookstore in this upscale New England resort, Obama chose for his daughters a fiction classic set in the Jim Crow South—and for himself a sprawling summer epic about the downfall of a family that moves from the Midwest to Washington.

Parallels anyone?

Obama—wearing a polo shirt and ball cap—emerged from the Bunch of Grapes bookstore carrying a brown paper bag and preceded by Sasha, 9, and Malia, 12, who's rejoined the family after her first summer camp.

Inside the bag was "Freedom" by Jonathan Franzen, aides reported. The novel portrays a family of urban home-steaders in St. Paul, Minnesota, who decamp to the nation's capital. It's not on sale yet, but the store gave him an advance copy. The president also purchased "Tinkers" by Paul Harding and "A Few Corrections" by Brad Leithauser, the bookstore said.

For the girls, the president bought two volumes: "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee and "The Red Pony" by John Steinbeck, a cashier said.

Lee's 1960 novel, a staple in English classrooms, centers on a rape trial in small-town Alabama and a white lawyer who defends a black man accused of



AP

President Barack Obama, with his daughters Malia Obama and Sasha Obama, waves to a gathered crowd as they leave the Bunch of Grapes book store in Vineyard Haven, Mass., Friday, Aug. 20, 2010, where the first family is vacationing.

the crime. A lesson in tolerance and integrity, it's seen through the eyes of the lawyer's 6-year-old daughter.

The bookstore visit set the tone for the Obamas' 10-day sojourn on Martha's Vineyard: learned, laid-back and family oriented.

Despite regular briefings on intelligence and other matters, the president was hoping for a stay dominated by downtime—from drowsing at the beach to stops at trademark ice cream shops.

And plenty of golf. Three hours after his bookstore visit, Obama was at Vineyard Golf Club, teeing off under bright sunshine and temperatures in the low '80s. His foursome included House Democratic Whip

Jim Clyburn of South Carolina.

The Vineyard stay—Obama's second August in a row on the island off Cape Cod—was a welcome respite after another turbulent period, which saw the Gulf oil leak finally plugged and the last U.S. combat brigade leave Iraq, but also fresh signs that the recovery is stalling and another slump in poll numbers for his handling of the economy.

On Friday, Obama got this upbeat news on the Mideast: Israeli and Palestinian negotiators will resume direct peace talks in September. They'd been stalled for months by haggling over Jewish settlements.

Meantime, outside the bookshop, crowds quickly formed behind yellow police tape as

word of Obama's visit spread.

Brendan Murphy, 14, of Simsbury, Connecticut, was inside when the president entered, and handed Obama a copy of his memoir, "Dreams from My Father", to autograph.

He wished Obama a nice vacation, reported Murphy's father, Ed. The president responded: "You, too. We're hoping to."

As to golf, that's rapidly become an Obama passion. Since taking office, the president has gone golfing 44 times, according to Mark Knoller, a CBS White House reporter who keeps meticulous records on such things.

That includes four outings here last summer, but does not include the miniature golf he played with Sasha last weekend in Panama City, Florida.

Stallone's 'Expendables' retains crown with \$16.5M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sylvester Stallone's "The Expendables" fought off an onslaught of newcomers to finish on top of the weekend box office again.

Lionsgate's "The Expendables" remained No. 1 for a second straight weekend with \$16.5 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. Directed by and starring Stallone, the action romp about mercenaries aiming to overthrow a dictator raised its total to \$64.9 million.

Five new wide releases debuted to crowd the market, but none managed to pack in huge audiences and knock off "The Expendables."

"Given all that competition in the marketplace, I don't think there was any guarantee we would hold this strong, but we did," said David Spitz, head of distribution for Lionsgate.

1. "The Expendables," \$16.5 million.
2. "Vampires Suck," \$12.2 million.
3. "Eat Pray Love," \$12 million.
4. "Lottery Ticket," \$11.1 million.
5. "The Other Guys," \$10.1 million.
6. "Piranha 3D," \$10 million.
7. "Nanny McPhee Returns," \$8.3 million.
8. "The Switch," \$8.1 million.
9. "Inception," \$7.7 million.
10. "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World," \$5 million.

Leading the newcomers was 20th Century Fox's "Twilight" spoof "Vampires Suck" with \$12.2 million, raising its total to \$18.6 million since it opened Wednesday. The movie mocks the blockbuster franchise with a parody about a moody schoolgirl in a love triangle with a vampire and a werewolf.

"Vampires Suck" was in a photo finish for the No. 2 spot

with another holdover, Julia Roberts' drama "Eat Pray Love." The Sony film about a divorced woman traveling the world in search of fulfillment pulled in \$12 million to lift its total to \$47.1 million.

The Warner Bros. comedy "Lottery Ticket," featuring rapper Bow Wow as a young man besieged by neighbors after he wins a \$370 million jackpot, opened in fourth place with \$11.1 million.

Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg's cop comedy "The Other Guys" held up well in its third weekend, with the Sony release taking in \$10.1 million and boosting its total to \$88.2 million.

"The Other Guys" was in a tossup for No. 5 with the Weinstein Co. horror remake "Piranha 3D," which opened with \$10 million. Inspired by



In this film publicity image released by Lionsgate Entertainment, from left, Jason Statham, Sylvester Stallone and Randy Couture are shown in a scene from "The Expendables."

the low-budget 1978 "Piranha," the update is set at a lake where spring-break parties are consumed by prehistoric man-eating fish.

Universal's sequel "Nanny McPhee Returns," with Emma Thompson back as the homely title character whipping a wartime family into shape, opened at No. 7 with \$8.3 million. The first film, 2006's "Nanny McPhee," debuted in fewer theaters but managed to pull in \$14.5 million over opening weekend.

Bringing up the rear among new wide releases at No. 8 was Jennifer Aniston's single-mom comedy "The Switch," which

debuted with \$8.1 million. The Disney release features Aniston as a woman whose drunken friend (Jason Bateman) switches her sperm specimen at a party to celebrate her artificial insemination.

Surprisingly, the overall box office was down only slightly compared with the same weekend last year, when "Inglourious Basterds" fired up the normally quiet late summer with a \$38.1 million opening and "District 9" held up well with an \$18.2 million second weekend.

Revenues this weekend came in at \$125 million, down just 1.7 percent from the same weekend

a year ago, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

"It was the collective strength of these five newcomers, plus the holdovers," said Paul Dergarabedian of Hollywood.com. "Inglourious Basterds" and "District 9" were "so unusually strong for August that it should have made the comparison tough for this year. But the industry threw everything they had at the wall this weekend and tried to see what would stick."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

Jay-Z still rides his cash cow

By CHRIS LEE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—All hail returning royalty. For the third time in the last four years, Jay-Z has been anointed hip-hop's "Cash King" by Forbes; he is rap's highest-earning star with a bullet, according to the magazine's annual ranking.

Having taken in \$63 million in the last 12 months, Hovi Baby easily bested a who's who of hip-hop rainmakers that includes Lil Wayne, Kanye West, Timbaland and Dr. Dre—not to mention the only person to have financially outperformed Jay-Z in recent memory, 50 Cent, who took the Forbes list's top spot in 2008 with a \$150 million annual income. He was downgraded to No. 14 this year, though, having checked in with a comparatively paltry \$8 million.

And the list's No. 2 wasn't even close. Just \$30 million, Sean "Diddy" Combs?

But if there is a takeaway from this year's Cash King crop, it's that business as usual in the rap world means leveraging one's creativity into a mode of undisguised commerciality that's created an abiding business model for the music industry.

Hip-hop's heavy hitters seem to realize that to make it in today's troubled economy—marked by a tumble in both the concert business and recorded music sales—brand-building is as important as mike control. The most notable among them—Jay-Z, you can raise your hand here—have parlayed their charisma and marketing ingenuity to become one-man conglomerates.

To wit: The biggest share of Jigga Man's \$63 million take is thanks in large part to his million-dollar-per-stage-show rate on his Blueprint 3 tour. But Jay-Z also sees healthy revenue from investments in the 40/40 nightclubs, the New Jersey Nets and the successful Broadway musical "Fela!"

Diddy, meanwhile, has taken to referring to himself as "Ciroc Obama" for his lucrative deal with Diageo, the company that owns Ciroc Vodka. The hip-hop impresario takes in considerably less money, however, from his musical endeavors (like his June CD, "Last Train to Paris") than he does his Sean John clothing line, roles in such films as "Get Him to the Greek" and Diddy-beats ear buds.

Hot-lanta rapper Ludacris



(the No. 6 Cash King this year with \$16 million) reaps income from his deals with Tag Body Spray and Trojan Magnum condoms as well as his partnership deal for Conjure Cognac.

Contrast that to No. 14 on the list, Eminem. Forbes calls him "a relative pauper" because of his lack of outside business ventures and decision not to tour.

As Ice-T pointed out in 1987, rhyme pays. Turns out brand-building pays a whole lot more.

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Piranha

Friday	4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Mon through Thurs	4:30	7:30	

Elisabeth Shue, Adam Scott
Horror • Rated R

Synopsis

Haute Tension and Hills Have Eyes director Alexandre Aja pays homage to the films that made him fall in love with the horror genre by helming this comedic remake of director Joe Dante's 1978 Jaws parody.



Vampires Suck

Friday	4:15	7:15	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Mon through Thurs	4:15	7:15	

Matt Lanter, Chris Riggi
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Vampires Suck is a comedy about contemporary teen angst and romance movies. Becca, an anxious, non-vampire teen, is torn between two boys. Before she can choose, Becca must get around her controlling father, who embarrasses Becca by treating her like a child. Meanwhile, Becca's friends content with their own romantic issues — all of which collide at the prom.



The Expendables

Friday	4:10	7:20	9:30
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:20
Mon through Thurs	4:10	7:20	

Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham
War • Rated R



Scott Pilgrim Versus The World

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:40
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Mon through Thurs	4:05	7:05	

Michael Cera, Chris Evans
Adventure • Rated PG 13



Salt

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Mon through Thurs	4:25	7:25	

Angelina Jolie, Liev Schreiber
Thriller • Rated PG 13



The Other Guys

Friday	4:20	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:10	4:20	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:20	7:10
Mon through Thurs	4:20	7:10	

Mark Wahlberg, Will Ferrell
Comedy • Rated PG 13



Inception

Friday	7:00	9:50
Saturday	7:00	9:50
Sunday	7:00	
Mon through Thurs	7:00	

Leonardo DiCaprio, Marion Cotillard
Action, Science fiction • Rated PG 13



Cats and Dogs: Revenge of Kitty Galore

Friday	4:00
Saturday	1:00
Sunday	1:00
Mon through Thurs	4:00

Alec Baldwin, Chris O'Donnell
Children's, Family • Rated PG

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'True Blood' stars Paquin, Moyer tie the knot

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"True Blood" co-stars Anna Paquin and Stephen Moyer have taken their true love to the altar. The couple's publicists said in a statement the 28-year-old Paquin and 40-year-old Moyer were married Saturday night at a ceremony in Malibu, Calif., "surrounded by their family and friends."

On the hit HBO series, Paquin

stars as Sookie Stackhouse, a Southern waitress who falls for vampire Bill Compton, played by Moyer. Compton is a Confederate veteran who was turned into a bloodsucker around the Civil War era.

Paquin also co-starred in the first three "X-Men" superhero movies and won a supporting-actress Academy Award at age 11 for 1993's "The Piano."

In this June 8, 2010 photo, cast members Anna Paquin, right, and Stephen Moyer arrive at the premiere for the third season of HBO's "True Blood" in Los Angeles.

AP



Jolie visits Bosnia, hopes to support education



AP

In this photo issued by the Bosnian Presidency Press Office, U.S. actress Angelina Jolie, center, shakes hands with Haris Silajdzic, left, a Muslim member of the Bosnian tripartite Presidency, during her visit to Sarajevo, Bosnia, on Saturday, Aug. 21, 2010.

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)—A top official in Bosnia said Saturday that Angelina Jolie is interested in supporting education and other projects to help young Bosnians and people who return to homes they left during the war.

Haris Silajdzic, chairman of Bosnia's three-member Presidency, said after meeting the actress that she asked about ideas for projects she could support and they both concluded that "the absolute priority is education".

The aim would be turn Sarajevo into a regional center of education, Silajdzic said.

Jolie visited Bosnia in April as UNHCR ambassador and drew attention to the plight of 117,000 people who haven't able to return to their homes even though the Bosnia war ended 15 years ago.

Jolie was also inspecting filming locations. She said in a statement issued through UNHCR—the United Nations refugee agency—that she plans to start shooting a movie in Bosnia in the autumn.

"The film is a love story," and is about a couple that meets on the eve of the war, her statement said.

Leno raises \$100,000 for Gulf Coast recovery

BILOXI, Miss. (AP)—Jay Leno brought comedy and cash to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to help the area recover from the BP oil spill.

More than 1,000 people watched Leno perform Saturday night at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino in Biloxi to raise money for the Gulf Coast Community Foundation. Tickets were \$40 to \$150.

At the end of the show, Leno presented an oversized check for \$90,336 to foundation president Rich Westfall. Leno chipped in some of his own money, topping off the evening's fundraising total at about \$100,000.



AP

Entertainer Jay Leno jokes with Rich Westfall, right, president of Gulf Coast Community Foundation about the money raised by Leno's one-night, one-show only benefit concert at the Beau Rivage Resort & Casino in Biloxi, Miss., Saturday, Aug. 21, 2010, for Mississippi oil spill victims.

Ex-Gov Blagojevich appears at Chicago Comic Con

ROSEMONT, Illinois (AP)—Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich compared himself to a superhero as he stood alongside folks dressed as Superman and Batman at the Chicago Comic Con.

Blagojevich said Saturday at the show in suburban Chicago that he draws inspiration from the super-

heros as he faces his own battles.

He charged \$80 for each photo taken with him and \$50 for autographs.

Some fans said Blagojevich earned the money and that he needs it because he isn't working.

While touring the floor, Blagojevich picked up a red "Bat-

phone" and joked that he was calling his lawyer.

A federal jury convicted Blagojevich this week of lying to the FBI but deadlocked on 23 other charges. Prosecutors plan to retry him. Actors William Shatner and Adam West are also at the Comic Con.

Faith Evans arrested on drunken driving charge

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Grammy-winning singer Faith Evans has been arrested after being stopped at a drunken driving checkpoint in the Los Angeles area.

Officer Cleon Joseph of the LAPD says the 37-year-old Evans was arrested Saturday night near Marina del Rey on suspicion of misdemeanor drunken driving. He says Evans was held for a few hours and released on bail Sunday morning. Her car was impounded.

The R&B singer is the widow of rapper Christopher Wallace, also known as the Notorious B.I.G. She won a Grammy in 1998 for the song "I'll Be Missing You."



AP

In this Jan. 7, 2009 photo singer Faith Evans attends the premiere of "Notorious" in New York.

Bride fears bridesmaid adds too much color to wedding

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 36-year-old woman who has a 25-year-old friend I love like a little sister. Because of that connection, I felt compelled to ask her to be a bridesmaid in my upcoming wedding.



Dear Abby

After she agreed, I overheard her mention that she would be getting a large tattoo on her arm. Because she knows how I feel about visible tattoos, I asked her if she'd wait six months until after the wedding. She and the matron of honor are scheduled to wear strapless, knee-length gowns.

She proceeded with the tattoo and now has half an arm of full-color design. I don't want her to ruin my wedding or the photographs. I would feel guilty if I had to force a jacket or sweater on her or my matron of honor, especially if the day is unseasonably hot. What should I do?

NO INK IN LOUISVILLE

DEAR NO INK: If your "little sister" cared as much about your feelings as you seem to about hers, she would have postponed getting the tattoo as you requested. Too bad she didn't.

However, weddings are more than the procession and the picture album. They are about loving friends and family and the joining of two people who intend to build a life together. If you're worried about the pictures, pose "Sis" so her "canvas" can't be seen by the camera.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Seven years ago, my husband, "John," had an affair that resulted in the birth of a child. Although it was difficult, John and I stayed together and our marriage is better than ever.

My husband supports "Talia" financially and sees her whenever he can. The adults have all managed to create a cordial, working relationship for Talia's sake.

Talia spends a few weeks with us during school breaks. When I go out with her and run into acquaintances, they'll ask, "Who's this?" I will give her name, but sometimes they press for more. Many of our friends know we've been married for a long time with only one child together. (Our daughter is in college.)

My question is—is Talia my stepdaughter? Is there a simple way of answering these questions without making anyone uncomfortable, especially Talia?

PART-TIME MOMMY

DEAR PART-TIME MOMMY: Yes, Talia is your stepdaughter, and you can introduce her that way or refer to her as John's daughter. Either would be correct.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What is the polite way to correct a child who is being rude in your home while her mother, who is present, does absolutely nothing?

DISCIPLINARIAN IN TRACY, CALIF.

DEAR DISCIPLINARIAN: Here's how I'd handle it. I would get down to the child's eye level and say: "Honey, I have certain rules in my house. When you're here, I expect you to (). Do you understand?"

You cannot expect a child who may not have been taught basic manners by his (or her) mother to know what you expect unless you spell it out sweetly and firmly. And if the bad behavior persists, I would socialize with the child's mother only one-on-one.

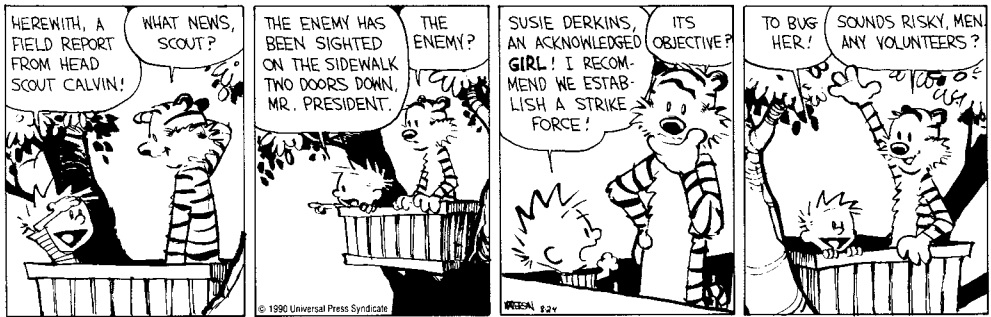
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



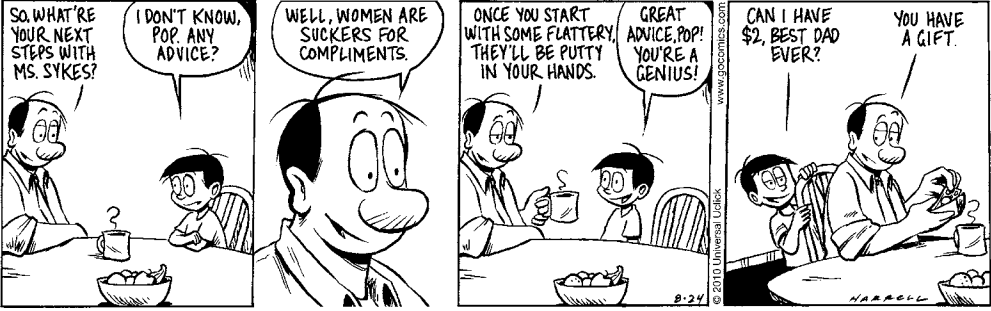
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

43 Not alfresco

47 New member

49 "American —"

50 Scratches (out)

51 Affliction

52 PBS science show

53 Morse code symbol

54 Surprise cries

55 Deuce topper

DOWN

1 Christ-mas trio

2 Ms. Brockovich

3 Beach stuff

4 Ridiculous

5 "Peer Gyn"

6 Long periods

7 Club —

8 A man's home?

9 Bohemian

10 Muck and —

11 Picks up the check

17 Second-hand

19 Prompt

22 Type measures

23 Tackle moguls

24 ATM ID number

25 Toss in

26 Retirement plan acronym

27 Roman

28 Always, in verse

29 Lair

31 6 on a phone

34 Flood

35 Flexible, electrically

36 Amount offered

37 Consecrate with oil

39 The bee's —

40 Told a whopper

41 "Diana" singer

42 Mid-month date

43 Architect — Ming

44 Smell

45 Bush adviser

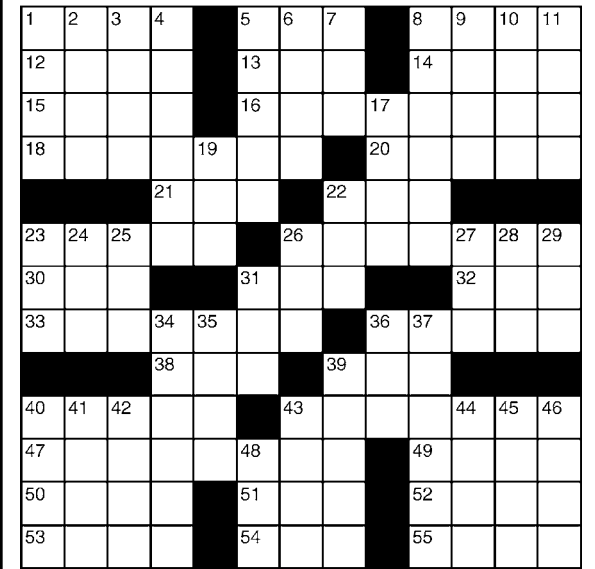
46 Do in

48 Pair

Solution time: 21 mins.

SPUD GEE SLOB
ERSE ATTL TAPA
WEEP TAKEAWAY
SPRUCE SWIRLS
TAKEHOLD SNAP
OVA OSIER CPA
YENS TAKEHEED
KAT DANA
ARABIA GOPHER
TAKEOVER PERE
AVER IRA ERIN
DIES DAM NEEDED

Yesterday's answer 8-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rupert Grint, 22; Chad Michael Murray, 29; Marlee Matlin, 45; Craig Kilborn, 48

Happy Birthday: Don't be fooled by what others tell you, especially when it comes to work, money and getting ahead. Rely on things you have learned in the past. A change in the way you live and the responsibilities you must take care of can be expected. Facing every day with optimism and an open mind will help you conquer what others cannot. Your numbers are 1, 10, 16, 26, 33, 41, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You aren't being told everything you need to know. Find out exactly what's expected of you or you will waste time doing things that aren't necessary. A romantic relationship can go either way. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make contact with people you have something in common with. You will accomplish a lot more if you work within a group. Travel if it will help you take care of something that's important to you. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Set your sights on progress and accomplishment and you will reach your goals. Emotional issues can be dealt with if you are honest about the way you feel. Children and seniors are likely to play an important decision-making role. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep it simple, especially when dealing with friends and family. The less said, the better. Don't count on getting along with everybody

you encounter. It will be best to keep an open mind but a practical outlook. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let money matters or contracts confuse you. Nothing is too difficult to figure out if you apply your experience and knowledge. Stop running from someone only interested in making your life better. An Aries or Libra will make a difference to your personal life. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Look for any help you can get that will allow you to be more creative and productive in a job that needs your attention. Paying more attention to detail will pay off and allow you more time to spend at home or with someone you love. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't limit what you can do because someone is trying to put restrictions on you. Rise above the criticism or demands and follow your intuition. Love should be high on your to-do list. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Find out all you need to know about someone you must deal with to get ahead. Changes at home will turn out well if you are honest about what you want and what you are willing to give. Expect to hear news about an old friend. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Problems will surface at home if you aren't careful what you say to friends, relatives or neighbors. Expect to face some backlash regarding a story you share about a friend or past associate. It's best to say little and do a lot for best results. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Rely on your past experience to help you make the right choices now. If you act impulsively, you will make a costly personal mistake that will deplete your bank account as well. Stick to what and who you know. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You've got lots to think about, especially with regard to where you live and how you cover your expenses. Help will be offered from a reliable source but, before you accept, find out what's expected in return. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotional matters will escalate if you don't take care of them immediately. Partnerships will be plentiful but choosing the right one will not be easy. Complete whatever needs to be done. ★★

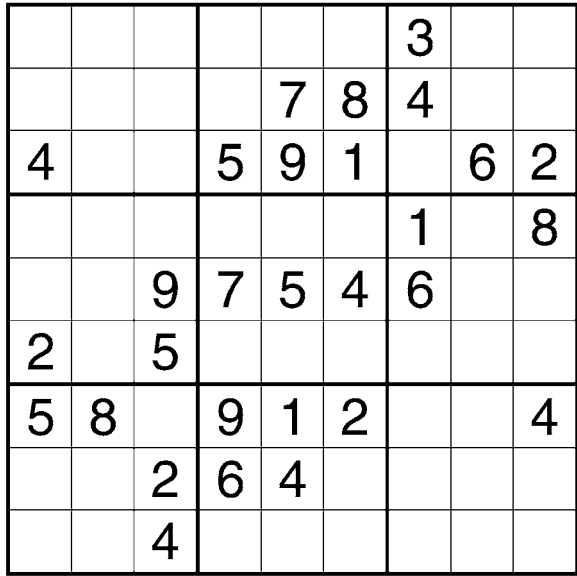
Birthday Baby: You are a dreamer, an inventor and an emotionally sensitive individual. You look at the future with optimism and welcome anything that is unique.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



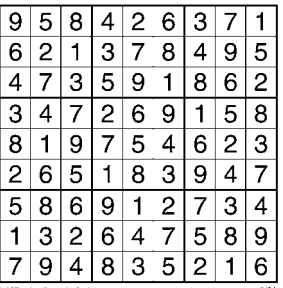
Difficulty Level ★★

8/24

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

8/24

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ETRUSCAN ART TREASURES

Solution: 8 letters

R O D N E L P S G N I V R A C
E F N I N N O V A T I V E I I
L I K A E P T N A R B I V T T
I N C S C E Z N O R B I I A A
G E A L K S T O N E L S T L R
I V A M R E U I E I F K A Y C
O Y L C O R L T Z E C I R K O
U S U A W R Y A I A O L O R T
S O T E D R T L B B L L C O S
M L I R L I E U M O O E E W I
I D S E O B S N R U R D D L R
T I W N G S H A P E S A Y A A
H E I S U O I R U X U L T T C
J R E V L I S G F I G U R E S
A S S Y R I A R A B S T O M B

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Yesterday's Answer: Live

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No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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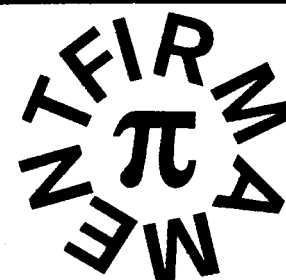
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Piniella bows out with a dud, Braves rout Cubs



CHICAGO
(AP)—Lou Piniella

bowed out as the Cubs' manager and ended a career that spanned five decades after the Atlanta Braves routed Chicago 16-5.

The 66-year-old Piniella announced before the game that he was leaving to be with his ailing mother. Third base coach Mike Quade was promoted to interim manager.

The disappointing Cubs weren't able to send Piniella out as a winner. Omar Infante and Jason Heyward each hit a pair of home runs, and the Braves scored 11 times in the last three innings to break away.

Piniella was in the dugout when the game was over, and he waved his hat to longtime Braves manager Bobby Cox across the field. Cox plans to retire after the season.

Cardinals 9, Giants 0

At St. Louis, Jaime Garcia threw a three-hitter for his first career shutout and fellow rookie Allen Craig hit a two-run homer as St. Louis trounced San Francisco.

Jon Jay had three hits and an RBI and Brendan Ryan and Yadier Molina each had two hits with an RBI for the Cardinals. St. Louis rebounded from a five-game losing streak to take two of three from the Giants.

During the game the Giants were awarded outfielder Cody Ross on a waiver claim from Florida.

Garcia (11-6) faced one batter over the minimum and struck out six.

Barry Zito (8-8) lasted only 3 2-3 innings, surrendering five runs on seven hits.

Phillies 6, Nationals 0

At Philadelphia, Roy Oswalt struck out eight batters in seven sharp innings to lead Philadelphia over Washington on a rainy day.

Oswalt (9-13) has won three straight starts for the first time this season, helping the Phillies try to make a move on Atlanta for the NL East lead.

Oswalt allowed five hits, and the Phillies backed him with the kind of run support he rarely got in Houston before getting traded in July. He never came out for the eighth after the game was delayed 1 hour, 44 minutes by rain.

The right-hander also got two hits and scored a run.

Reds 5, Dodgers 2

At Los Angeles, Bronson Arroyo earned his 100th career victory, and Joey Votto homered and drove in three runs as National League Central-leading Cincinnati beat Los Angeles.

The Reds took two of three in the series and held their 3 1/2-game division edge over St. Louis.

Arroyo (14-7) allowed two runs and seven hits in seven innings, striking out six and walking none. The right-hander came in 0-3 with a 5.56 ERA lifetime at Dodger Stadium.

Clayton Kershaw (11-8) struck out 11, allowing three runs and five hits over seven innings. He threw a career-high 118 pitches.

Votto hit a tiebreaking homer in the sixth and added a two-run single in the ninth.

Astros 2, Marlins 1

At Miami, Hunter Pence hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning as Houston averted a series sweep by ending the Florida's season-high five-game winning streak.

Pence also drove in the game's first run with a sacrifice fly in the third inning.

Pence's 19th homer, one of only five hits for Houston, came with one out in the eighth off Jose Veras (2-1).

Padres 7, Brewers 3

At Milwaukee, Adrian Gonzalez and Chase Headley each homered for San Diego.

Jon Garland (13-8) had his scoreless-innings streak ended at 21 innings when he gave up Ryan Braun's 18th home run in the fifth, but he won his third straight start and four of five.

Manny Parra (3-10) gave up seven runs in six innings on eight hits and four walks. He struck out five.

Pirates 2, Mets 1

At Pittsburgh, A slumping Zach Duke limited New York to one run over seven innings, and Jose Tabata and Lastings Milledge homered as Pittsburgh salvaged the final game of the three-game series.

Duke (6-12), a loser of eight of his previous 11 starts, struck



Chicago Cubs manager Lou Piniella waves to the crowd before the start of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves Sunday, Aug. 22, 2010, in Chicago.

out five and walked two to win for only the third time in 13 starts since May 18.

The Pirates, trying to dodge their first 100-loss season since 2001, had lost five in a row and 12 of 13 to fall 43 games below .500 at 40-83.

Rockies 1, Diamondbacks 0

At Phoenix, Dexter Fowler hit a run-scoring single in the eighth inning and Jhoulys Chacin pitched 7 2-3 strong innings to lead Colorado over Arizona.

Fowler also helped Chacin with a diving catch in center field that took away a hit from Adam LaRoche in the fourth inning. Fowler landed hard on his left side but held onto the ball. He was shaken up for a few moments but remained in the game.

Eric Young singled with one out in the eighth off reliever Aaron Heilman (4-5) and stole

second base before Fowler's hit.

Chacin (6-9) allowed three hits and a walk with nine strikeouts. It was the longest outing of the 22-year-old rookie's major league career.

Yankees 10, Seattle 0

At New York, Robinson Cano hit a grand slam and drove in a career-high six run and CC Sabathia extended his home winning streak to 15 decisions as the New York Yankees routed the Seattle Mariners on a rain-slicked field.

Austin Kearns and Jorge Posada also homered for the Yankees, who notched another win minus slugger Alex Rodriguez. New York is a confounding 12-0 this season without the three-time MVP, placed on the 15-day disabled list Saturday with a strained left calf.

Cano is a big reason for all that success. Making his own

bid for an most valuable player award, the All-Star second baseman launched his 25th home run in the fifth inning off Luke French (2-4) gave up Cano's 25th homer.

Sabathia (17-5) held Seattle hitless until the fifth and became the American League's first 17-game winner.

Rays 3, Athletics 2

At Oakland, California, Matt Garza came out on top in a matchup between pitchers who threw no-hitters this season, outpitching Dallas Braden for his career-high 13th win and leading Tampa Bay over Oakland.

Garza (13-7) scattered four hits over 7 2-3 innings and overcame a balk that led to Oakland's only run against him.

Braden (8-9) allowed only four hits but gave up all three Tampa Bay runs and took the loss. It's only the second loss in six starts for the A's lefty, who pitched a perfect game against the Rays on May 9.

Red Sox 5, Blue Jays 0

At Boston, Clay Buchholz allowed five hits over six innings to lower his AL-best ERA to 2.26 and Bill Hall hit a two-run homer for Boston.

The game began 1 hour, 44 minutes late and was stopped for 59 minutes by more rain with two outs in the top of the third of a scoreless tie.

Buchholz (15-5) extended his streak to 23 2-3 innings without allowing an earned run.

Shaun Marcum (11-7) retired Boston's first 12 batters. He left after seven innings, having given up three runs and four hits. He had six strikeouts and without a walk.

Rangers 6, Orioles 4

At Baltimore, Josh Hamilton and Vladimir Guerrero each hit three-run homers and Tommy Hunter earned his career-high 10th win as Texas beat Baltimore to split the four-game series.

The AL West-leading Rangers had lost 11 of 15 before the victory, which also snapped a 1-7 stretch on the road.

Luke Scott hit his 100th career homer and Ty Wigginton also connected for Baltimore, now 12-8 under manager Buck Showalter.

Hunter (10-2) gave up three

runs and five hits over eight innings.

Hamilton and Guerrero both connected off Kevin Millwood (2-14).

Royals 3, White Sox 2, 10 innings

At Kansas City, Missouri, Jason Kendall hit a game-ending single with two outs in the 10th inning to give Kansas City a victory over Chicago in the teams' third extra-inning game in less than 24 hours.

Gregor Blanco walked with two outs and stole second and third before Kendall delivered the hit to left-center off Scott Linebrink (1-1).

The Royals and White Sox played three games totaling 9 hours, 32 minutes and 31 innings. They split a doubleheader Saturday night, the first game going 11 innings and the second 10, that did not end until 1:11 a.m. Sunday morning.

Tigers 8, Indians 1

At Detroit, Justin Verlander pitched eight strong innings and rookie Will Rhymes had four hits as Detroit completed a three-game sweep of Cleveland.

The Tigers outscored Cleveland 19-3 in the lopsided weekend series, and have had two three-game winning streaks and a three-game losing streak in their last nine games.

Verlander (14-8), who has struggled with high pitch counts early in games this season, didn't throw his 100th pitch Sunday until the eighth inning. He gave up a run in the first and finished with eight strikeouts against seven hits and a walk.

Twins 4, Angels 0

At Minneapolis, Scott Baker pitched seven shutout innings and Michael Cuddyer had a bases-loaded double as Minnesota beat Los Angeles.

Danny Valencia homered for the Twins, who took two of three from Los Angeles.

Minnesota went 7-2 on its nine-game homestand to increase its lead in the AL Central to five games over struggling Chicago.

Valencia homered to open the fifth against Jered Weaver (11-9), and Cuddyer fouled off five straight pitches with two strikes before hitting his double to left-center.

Rubio impresses in loss to US



MADRID
(A P) — Ricky Rubio continued to impress despite Spain's 86-85 loss to the United States in a friendly game Sunday.

The teenage point guard scored seven points and had three assists for Spain, and proved to be a key player at the "Magic Box" center down the

stretch thanks to impressive dribbling and no-look passes.

While Kevin Durant managed to block Rubio's last-gasp attempt at the close, the Oklahoma City forward came away impressed from his first brush with the 19-year-old.

"He's an amazing defender, that's one thing that stood out to me is how well he pressured the ball and disrupted our offense," said Durant, who led

the game with 25 points. "He's flashy, he's crafty as well and the passes he did tonight were kind of amazing."

Rubio's stutter-step into the lane drew defensive attention and allowed him to feed Felipe Reyes for an easy lay-in for Spain's first lead of the game with 90 seconds to play.

Rubio's entry in the first half helped energize a flagging Spanish side that was in dan-

ger of falling far behind after trailing 16-3. He helped rally Spain to within 23-16 and drew gasps after providing an over-the-head, no-look backhanded alley-oop chance that center Fran Vazquez missed in the second period.

U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski expects Rubio to be a great NBA guard as he continues to physically grow.

"He's gotten bigger and he plays outstanding defense, and because he's a pass-first guard—he's going to be liked

by everybody who plays with him," said Krzyzewski, whose U.S. team came up against Rubio in the Olympic final two years ago. "He's improved his shooting and he's not afraid."

Rubio has said he will likely move to the NBA after playing one more season at Barcelona, with the Minnesota Timberwolves having taken him with their 2009 first-round pick.

Even Chicago Bulls point guard Derrick Rose came away impressed from their

duel, despite Rubio stealing from him on at least two occasions. But Rose got the better of Rubio as he got past the Spaniard on a drive to the basket that led to the lay-up with the clock winding down. Shortly after Rubio turned it over, Rose sealed the game with two free throws.

"It was great just to test him. He's a young player and he played great," Rose said. "He really runs the offense well ... I think he's ready for the NBA."

Atwal claims 1-shot victory at Wyndham



GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP)—Many players came to the Wyndham Championship for a push into the PGA Tour's playoffs.

Not Arjun Atwal. He was playing for his spot on tour.

Atwal won by a stroke Sunday at Sedgefield Country Club, becoming the first Monday qualifier to win on the tour in 24 years.

After leading or sharing the lead after each of the first three rounds, Atwal shot a 3-under 67 in the final round. He finished at 20-under 260 and earned \$918,000—or, more than double the amount he previously earned this year, the reason why his future on tour had been in jeopardy.

"I told my caddie, 'We've got nothing to lose this week. Just go out there and try and win it,'" Atwal said. "Guys are going to be out there trying to secure their FedEx Cup spots or whatever. We've got nothing. I don't have a card. I don't have anything. Just go out there and free-wheel it, and that's what I did this week."

He's the first Indian-born player to win on tour and the first to win both the qualifier and the tournament that follows since Fred Wadsworth at the 1986 Southern Open.

David Toms (64) was 19 under. John Mallinger and Michael Sim shot 62s to match John Rollins (65) and Justin Leonard (65) at 18 under.

For a few dizzying moments late in a low-scoring day, seven players shared the lead at 18 under.

Atwal, who carried a three-stroke lead into the final round,



Arjun Atwal, of India, holds the Sam Snead Cup on the 18th green after winning the Wyndham Championship golf tournament in Greensboro, N.C., Sunday, Aug. 22, 2010.

was at 19 under for most of the day but bogeyed the par-3 12th a few minutes before Lucas Glover bogeyed 14 and Toms, Rollins and Leonard all birdied No. 16.

"It just kept changing," Atwal said. "Everybody's tied for the lead at a certain point."

Atwal reclaimed the lead with a birdie on No. 14, Leonard birdied No. 17 and Toms birdied No. 18 to join them at 19 under. Leonard dropped back a stroke after running into trouble on 18, while Atwal still had three holes to play—giving

him more than enough chances to settle things himself.

Atwal made his move on the par-3 16th, plopping his tee shot 6 feet from the flagstick and sinking his birdie putt to move to 20 under. He followed that with consecutive pars, sinking a 7-foot putt on No. 18 before dropping his putter and extending his arms upward in jubilation after closing out his first tour victory.

"I was thinking about going to the (driving) range, but when he got to 20 under and they said

he had a 15-footer on 17, I just went in the clubhouse and tried to cool off," Toms said. "I was ready to go to the range, if need be, but good for (Atwal). I know it's tough to get that first victory. ... I'm sure that he was battling some nerves, and to pour it in from 6-8 feet on that last hole was pretty impressive."

Glover (67) finished at 17 under, and Webb Simpson (63), Chris Riley (64), Scott Piercy (68) and second-round co-leader Brandt Snedeker (69) were one stroke behind him.

Atwal, who has won on the European, Asian and Nationwide tours, certainly has been through plenty during the past few years.

The player perhaps best known for his practice rounds with Tiger Woods is ineligible for the playoffs and lost his tour card last month because he was too low on the money list when his minor medical exemption ran out. That came after he said he returned too soon following weightlifting injuries to both shoulders.

Three years ago, a driver try-

ing to race him down an Orlando street died in a crash. Atwal was cleared of any wrongdoing, although the yearlong investigation took an emotional toll.

Glover made five consecutive birdies, sinking four putts from 14 feet or beyond, to catch Atwal, then briefly had the lead all to himself with a birdie on No. 9 that put him at 20 under. That didn't last long: He sent his drive on No. 10 into the rough and three-putted for bogey, and slipped out of contention after he was 3 over on the back nine.

"I didn't make anything coming in," Glover said. "Don't win doing that."

The Wyndham marked the last chance for players to pick up points for the playoffs that begin next week in New Jersey.

Michael Letzig, who arrived at Sedgefield at No. 125 on the points list, finished 14 under move to 118th place, solidifying his spot in The Barclays.

"The goal is to give myself another tournament to play," he said. "I'm in, so (I'll) see what happens."

Others weren't so fortunate. Mallinger started at No. 163 on the points list, but initially figured a final round that included six birdies and an eagle was good enough to propel him into next week. But when others joined him in a tie for third on the leaderboard, he slipped to 132nd place in the standings and finished roughly 40 points out of the playoff picture.

Jeff Quinney, who arrived at No. 127, only moved up one spot on the list and finished about 3 points shy of making the post-season field with his 12 under.

"I could have taken care of my own business today," Quinney said.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Being back on the field again meant plenty to Brett Favre, no matter if it was only for a few minutes.

No matter that he completed one pass and also got clobbered on a sack that lost Minnesota 10 yards.

Favre's highly anticipated first game back with the Vikings lasted all of four unspectacular plays and one series in a 15-10 loss to the 49ers in a nationally televised preseason game Sunday at Candlestick Park, the only NFL show of the night.

"I didn't fumble a snap, completed a pass," Favre said. "That's a win for me."

Favre completed a 13-yard pass to Adrian Peterson on his first play from scrimmage but was sacked by Pro Bowl linebacker Patrick Willis two plays later and the Vikings wound up punting. The 40-year-old quarterback took the field just four days after his first training camp practice of the year. He decided to return for a 20th season and make yet another run at a Super Bowl title.

Favre's first outing back a quick one

"There's no substitute for getting in a game, calling plays, having a 40-second clock that you have to pay attention to," said Favre, admittedly a little stiff afterward. "They blitzed on the last play. We technically could have picked it up, I could have made a call, but the mind wasn't working quick enough.... That was obviously not a positive play but it's what you do with it from here on. I'll look at the film. I would hate for that to happen the first game in real action against New Orleans."

It's hard to make much of the small sampling. Not that Favre's numbers mattered to the Vikings, just thrilled to have him back.

Alex Smith, Favre's 49ers counterpart, went 9 of 13 for 88 yards in a solid first half. Willis had four tackles playing only nine snaps.

After that single series, Favre headed to the bench and gave way to backup Tarvaris Jackson - who had been in line to

be the starter before Jared Allen, Ryan Longwell and Steve Hutchinson flew to Mississippi early last week to recruit Favre back to the Twin Cities. Favre, sporting a 5-o'clock shadow peppered with gray, could be seen laughing on the sideline in the second half.

Coach Brad Childress had planned to give Favre 10 plays, but that changed when it took so long for the Vikings offense to finally get on the field.

Smith bounced back a week after stumbling through a subpar outing in which he completed 3 of 9 passes for 37 yards and only two first downs in a win at Indianapolis. David Carr and Nate Davis rallied the Niners to 34 straight points in the 37-17 victory.

He made do for a 49ers offense missing three of its biggest stars: receiver Michael Crabtree, tight end Vernon Davis and running back Frank Gore.

"We just came out against the No. 1 rush defense in the NFL and marched it down the field," Smith said. "After last week, it was nice to come out and have some quick success and then end it with a score.... We've been doing it all summer in practice. It was nice just to finally go do it in a game scenario."

Smith completed his first four passes for 48 yards and 5 of his first six on the Niners' opening drive, including a 24-yard strike to backup tight end Delanie Walker that set up a 4-yard scoring run by rookie Anthony Dixon.

After all the drama that surrounds Favre each offseason—will he or won't he really retire?—he's back in his No. 4 jersey and told his teammates he's as committed to this as ever.

And why not keep going?

Favre is coming off a year in which he threw for 4,202 yards and 33 touchdowns and established career highs for comple-

tion rate (68.4), quarterback rating (107.2) and fewest interceptions (seven).

Favre insists the Vikings' success will ride on the play of Peterson.

"I played the best football of my career and it wasn't enough," Favre said, referring to the Vikings losing to the eventual Super Bowl champion Saints in the NFC title game.

He was booed by the crowd Sunday when running onto the field for the first time midway through the first quarter. Favre has been the Niners' nemesis for years.

In late September last year, Favre hit Greg Lewis on a 32-yard touchdown with 2 seconds left as the Vikings stunned San Francisco 27-24 in Minneapolis. That was the first of six straight road losses—five in a row by a combined 19 points—for the 49ers that helped cost them a playoff trip and a winning season.

Davis, San Francisco's No. 3 QB and fifth-round pick last year, completed a pretty 60-yard pass to Ted Ginn Jr. in the third quarter with his foot planted at the goal line when he released the ball. The pass set up Joe Nedney's 28-yard field goal. Davis later had an 18-yard completion to Nate Byham.

Longwell kicked a 40-yard field goal early in the second quarter for the Vikings' first points. Minnesota rookie quarterback Joe Webb broke loose up the middle for a 48-yard TD run with 1:54 to play, then Webb was sacked by Derek Walker in the end zone for a safety on the final play of the game.

Former Stanford star Toby Gerhart got his first of his four carries for Minnesota midway through the second quarter, a 3-yard gain. This marked the rookie's first game back in the Bay Area since the Vikings selected him at No. 51 in the second round of this year's draft. Gerhart, who rushed for 1,871 yards and 28 touchdowns for the Cardinal last year, also caught two short passes.

3 STUDENTS

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rites and each received \$25 gift card courtesy of Shirley’s Coffee Shop and \$50 gift certificate from Modern Stationary. TSL Foundation manager Ed Arriola handed the medals and gift certificates to the three athletes.

Sapong was selected for the monthly plum after winning several races during the 2010 NMA McDonald’s All Schools Championships at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility. She won in the 400m and 800m races in her age group (18-and-under) and helped Marianas High School win in relay races.

Douglas Dillay, also from athletics, was named Male Student Athlete of the Month (for May), but he could not make it to the awards presentation yesterday.

Miller and Rastguiy earned NMASA members’ nods for the June award after ruling

their respective age groups in the 2010 North Pacific Qualifying tennis tournament which Saipan hosted.

Miller topped the boys U14 age group, going undefeated in the five-day tournament. It was the third straight time Miller won in his age group and the second time he took a TSL Foundation/NMASA monthly plum. The 14-year-old athlete claimed the February award this year after his impressive performance in the 2010 Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament.

“Winning the TSL Foundation/NMASA monthly award for the second time keeps me motivated. It gives me confidence to continue playing well, as I know at the end of the day, recognition will come and I will be rewarded for the hard work I put in every game,” Miller said.

Rastguiy also played in the NPQ and prevailed in the girls U12 competition. She won in the championship match

against the top-ranked player from Palau despite losing in the first set.

“I was nervous at the start of the game. However, once I loosened up, I started to feel confident and got my game going. It was nice to be recognized again,” said Rastguiy, who also won a monthly plum last year.

The awarding of medals and prizes for top athletes in May and June took time due to scheduling problems. Sapong and Dillay were busy preparing for the Micro Games and just returned to Saipan in the second week of this month.

After the NPQ, Miller and Rasguiy had to prepare for the 2010 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji and they left Saipan in the third week of July, staying in Lautoka for more than a week. When they returned to Saipan, majority of sports officials were already in Palau for the Micro Games thus the awards presentation was rescheduled on a later date.

ROLLERS

From Page 28

final game in the regular season against the Runnin’ Rebels, 90-78, last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Rollers finished the round-robin regular season with a 2-6 record, winning its last two games and avoiding the cellar in the nine-team field. The Rollers, which broke into the win column after a 79-74 triumph over the Budweiser Saints last month, will now be seeded seventh in the double-elimination playoffs that will start once the last two make-up games are completed.

The Joe Diaz-coached Rollers are likely to be paired against Becks Sixsevenoh (5-3) in the first round of the playoffs. The Rebels, who would either finish eighth or ninth in the team standings, depending on the results of the make-up games last night, will duel the Saints in the first round with the winner going up against pennant

champion CNMI Nationals in the second round.

The Nationals swept their first seven games before heading to Palau for the 7th Micronesian Games and were scheduled to meet the Runnin’ Rebels last night in the second make-up game. The first make-up match of the night pitted the Saints (1-6) over the Michelob Ultra Sixers (2-5).

The Bud Ice Rollers-Runnin’ Rebels tiff was the first game played in the Budweiser caging since the league took a break to give way to the Micro Games. Two games were scheduled at the resumption of action in the league, but the Saints had a no-show in the first game, awarding the Bud Light Lime Ol’Aces the automatic win by forfeiture.

The Rollers and Runnin’ Rebels engaged in a close fight with the former having a slight edge, as they led at the end of the second, 40-36, and third quarters, 63-62.

The Runnin’ Rebels were still in the driver’s seat in the fourth

quarter until a one-handed dunk from Eli Aughenbaugh going into the last three minutes of the game shifted momentum to the Rollers.

Thomas Santos top-scored for the Rollers with 22 points, while Aughenbaugh added 17. Manny Matagolai chipped in 12 and the Rollers drew at least four points from three players.

The Runnin’ Rebels played with only five players and ran out of gas in the closing minutes of the fourth quarter. Clayton Kenty and Ivan De Vero led the Runnin’ Rebels’ losing cause, hitting 19 markers apiece. D.J. Ngirchongor contributed 15, while Leroy Rangamar and West Tomokane tallied 13 and 12, respectively.

Rollers 90 – Santos 22, Aughenbaugh 17, Matagolai 12, Reyes 9, Galarse 6, Babauta 4, Litulimar 2.

Runnin’ Rebels 78 – Kenty 19, De Vero 19, Ngirchongor 15, Rangamar 13, Tomokane 12.

Scoring by quarters: 20-20, 36-40, 62-63, 90-78.

SASC

From Page 28

Besides these three events, SASC will continue to have the Tank 2 Tank swims every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12pm. Group running in preparation for future races is held every Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30pm, starting at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

SASC members will then open October via the Marianas Coffee Trail Run, which is slated for October 2.

The following day, bikers are encouraged to join Mieke Carey’s fundraising race. The fundraiser will have races in MTB and road bikes divisions, while kid riders will also have

their own competition. Mieke’s race aimed to race funds for her trip to Hawaii for the XTERRA World Championships.

Two weeks after Mieke’s event, riders will compete in the 50-kilometer race, which is a prelude to Pacific Island Club’s Hell of the Marianas Century Cycling Race. The second Enticer race will then take place after the pre-Hell of Marianas event or on Oct. 24.

In November, a MTB race is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 6, a week before triathletes head to Rota for the Rota Blue Triathlon on Nov. 13.

The Tough Love MTB race, which was shelved last year, will return to the road on Nov. 21 with SASC president Russ Quinn organizing the event. Four days after the Tough Love

Mama, triathletes will join the Turkey Trot Run.

The biggest event SASC members will be joining in before the year ends will be the Hell of Marianas, which will hit the road on Dec. 4. SASC will then conclude 2010 with an Olympic triathlon distance race, set for either Dec. 11 or 18.

SASC is composed of members who are into biking, running, hiking, and swimming. It took a break from joining races for more than a month to give way to the CNMI triathlon team’s preparation to the 7th Micronesian Games.

Mieke Carey, Lewie Tenorio, Kieran Daly, and Matt Mancao represented SASC and the CNMI to the Micro Games in Palau, bringing home three gold medals and a bronze.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	77	47	.621	—
Tampa Bay	76	48	.613	1
Boston	71	54	.568	6 1/2
Toronto	64	59	.520	12 1/2
Baltimore	44	81	.352	33 1/2

Central Division

Minnesota	72	52	.581	—
Chicago	67	57	.540	5
Detroit	61	63	.492	11
Kansas City	53	71	.427	19
Cleveland	50	74	.403	22

West Division

Texas	69	54	.561	—
Los Angeles	62	63	.496	8
Oakland	61	62	.496	8
Seattle	49	75	.395	20 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	73	51	.589	—
Philadelphia	70	53	.569	2 1/2
Florida	62	61	.504	10 1/2
New York	62	62	.500	11
Washington	53	71	.427	20

Central Division

Cincinnati	72	52	.581	—
St. Louis	67	54	.554	3 1/2
Milwaukee	59	65	.476	13
Houston	54	69	.439	17 1/2
Chicago	51	74	.408	21 1/2
Pittsburgh	41	83	.331	31

West Division

San Diego	74	49	.602	—
San Francisco	69	56	.552	6
Colorado	63	60	.512	11
Los Angeles	63	62	.504	12
Arizona	49	76	.392	26

Yesterday's Games

Houston 2, Florida 1

Pittsburgh 2, N.Y. Mets 1

Philadelphia 6, Washington 0

San Diego 7, Milwaukee 3

St. Louis 9, San Francisco 0

Atlanta 16, Chicago Cubs 5

Cincinnati 5, L.A. Dodgers 2

Colorado 1, Arizona 0

Detroit 8, Cleveland 1

N.Y. Yankees 10, Seattle 0

Texas 6, Baltimore 4

Boston 5, Toronto 0

Kansas City 3, Chicago White Sox 2, 10 innings

Tampa Bay 3, Oakland 2

Minnesota 4, L.A. Angels 0

WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

GREENSBORO, North Carolina (AP)—Scores Saturday from the Wyndham Championship, a \$5.1 million US PGA Tour event on the par-70, 7,117-yard (6,505-meter) Sedgefield Country Club course:

FINAL ROUND

Arjun Atwal	61	67	65	67	260	\$918,000
David Toms	64	68	65	64	261	\$550,800
John Mallinger	65	67	68	62	262	\$244,800
Michael Sim	66	68	66	62	262	\$244,800
John Rollins	64	65	68	65	262	\$244,800
Justin Leonard	68	63	66	65	262	\$244,800
Lucas Glover	64	65	67	67	263	\$170,850
Webb Simpson	66	64	71	63	264	\$142,800
Chris Riley	67	69	64	64	264	\$142,800
Brandt Snedeker	63	65	69	67	264	\$142,800
Scott Piercy	66	66	64	68	264	\$142,800

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER CAGE STANDINGS

CNMI Nationals	7	0
Hoegaarden IT&E	7	1
Bacardi Hi-5	5	3
Becks Sixsevenoh	5	3
Ol'Aces	4	4
Michelob Sixers	2	5
Bud Ice Rollers	2	6
Runnin' Rebels	1	6
Budweiser Saints	1	6

Fredrik Jacobson

67

67

69

62

265

\$96,900

Joe Durant

68

67

66

64

265

\$96,900

Tim Petrovic

66

68

66

65

265

\$96,900

Will MacKenzie

68

64

65

68

265

\$96,900

Garrett Willis

66

66

65

68

265

\$96,900

Scott McCarron

65

68

63

69

265

\$96,900

Marc Leishman

66

66

70

64

266

\$55,947

Michael Letzig

66

68

67

65

266

\$55,947

Josh Teater

66

68

67

65

266

\$55,947

Aron Price

67

69

65

65

266

\$55,947

Tim Herron

67

64

69

66

266

\$55,947

Jeev Milkha Singh

64

68

68

66

266

\$55,947

Tom Gillis

69

67

64

66

266

\$55,947

Kevin Streelman

64

65

70

67

266

\$55,947

Richard S. Johnson

67

66

65

68

266

\$55,947

Kevin Na

66

71

61

68

266

\$55,947

Kirk Triplett

69

68

67

63

267

\$33,915

Chad Collins

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\$33,915

James Driscoll

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\$33,915

Bob Estes

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Bill Haas

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\$33,915

Andres Romero

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\$33,915

Brett Wetterich

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\$25,209

J.J. Henry

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\$25,209

Jason Dufner

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Jonathan Byrd

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Jeff Quinney

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Jerry Kelly

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Martin Laird

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\$25,209

John Daly

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\$17,366

Jason Gore

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\$17,366

D.J. Trahan

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\$17,366

Mark Wilson

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\$17,366

Brian Stuard

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\$17,366

Garth Mulroy

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65

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269

\$17,366

Drew Weaver

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\$17,366

Alex Prugh

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269

\$17,366

Jerry Richardson Jr.

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\$12,725

Troy Merritt

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\$12,725

Briny Baird

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\$12,725

Glen Day

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\$12,725

Kent Jones

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\$11,433

Frank Lickliter II

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\$11,433

Rocco Mediate

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Spencer Levin

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Paul Stankowski

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Aaron Baddeley

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Troy Matteson

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Trevor Immelman

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Boo Weekley

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Cameron Beckman

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\$11,433

Greg Owen

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\$11,433

James Nitties

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\$10,812

Mathias Gronberg

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\$10,455

Blake Adams

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\$10,455

Charles Warren

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\$10,455

John Merrick

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\$10,455

Omar Uresti

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\$10,455

Skip Kendall

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\$10,455

Steve Marino

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\$9,996

Chris DiMarco

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\$9,996

Derek Lamely

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66

66

72

274

\$9,996

Michael Connell

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69

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72

275

\$9,792

Robert Garrigus

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66

71

70

276

\$9,639

Kris Blanks

69

68

69

70

276

\$9,639

Daniel Chopra

70

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73

69

277

\$9,486

Jay Williamson

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72

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280

\$9,384

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROTARY

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group is also scheduled to start next month.

Entrance fee per each age group is \$100. Players are asked to submit birth certificates for proof of age eligibility and sign waiver and registrations forms, which can be picked up at the Ada Gym from 8am to 5pm.

For coaches, they must hold a coaching certification to join the league. Non-certified coaches or newcomers will only be allowed in the league if they will attend and complete a coaching

course, which will be held prior to the start of the youth caging.

Coaches and managers of interested teams are also required to attend a meeting today at 5:30pm at the conference room of the Ada Gym. Formats, rules, and other important details about the league will be discussed in today’s mandatory meeting.

Players who will see action in the two age group competitions will be eligible to join the CNMI National Team Development Squad, where the Commonwealth’s representatives to various tournaments in Micronesia will be selected.

These players will get a

chance to compete off-island against players from the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Guam, and the Marshall Islands, according to BANMI president Elias Rangamar.

For more information about this year’s Rotary caging, contact Rangamar at eli_rang@yahoo.com.

Last year’s Rotary youth caging drew 12 teams, namely G-Stars, Sixers, Sonics, C.K. Saints, 670 Rollers II, Runnin’ Rebels, Sparks, Rollers I, Ol’Aces, Celtics, Young670 Rollers II, and Hi-5. The Sixers went on to win last season’s championship after edging the G-Stars, 55-54.

Easy victories for Joeten, Mobil

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Victories came in handy for Joeten Superstores and Mobil Sunday during the Emon Lodge 179 Freemasonry Inter-Color Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Joeten Superstores routed Marianas Resort in the fourth game of the day, 85-55, while Mobil outgunned MBI-Right Guard in the curtain-raiser, 92-75.

It was Joeten Superstores' second win in six games, while Marianas Resort absorbed its fifth loss, also after six matches.

Tim Quan top-scored for Joeten Superstores with 24 markers, pouring in points in the second and third quarter to help his team pull away. Nino Feria added 22 markers, drilling most of his baskets in the fourth when Quan decided to watch from the

bench, as Joeten was comfortably ahead at the end of the third period, 58-37.

Joeten Superstores, which cruised to back-to-back wins after prevailing over Tropical Laundry via forfeiture last week, held Marianas Resort to seven points in the first quarter to take early control of the match.

Quan, who had eight of Joeten's 12 first-quarter points, added eight more in the second, while Feria contributed six to give their team a 38-21 halftime advantage.

Quan then continued to assert his might inside against the much smaller frontliners of Marianas Resort to protect Joeten's double-digit lead. He and Alex Lauron were too much for Marianas Resort in the paint, allowing Joeten to increase the lead to 21, entering the final canto.

Quan sat out the whole fourth quarter and was contented watching Feria burn the hoops and pad Joeten's lead.

Besides Quan and Feria, Joeten Superstores also drew double figures from Alex Lauron and Teo Alfonso, who nailed 15 and 11 markers, respectively.

Arnold Crisostomo paced Marianas Resort with 17 points.

In the first game, Mobil dominated MBI from start to finish to notch its sixth win.

After a close first quarter, which ended with Mobil ahead by only a hair, 19-18, coach Marvin Deocares' wards slowly built a good lead to hand MBI its second loss in six games.

Mobil outgunned MBI in the second period, 20-13, behind Jun Estolas' nine points for a 39-31 halftime lead. Estolas and Marvin Rabauliman then combined for 17 of Mobil's 27 points in the third period to make it a 13-point game, 66-53, going into the final canto.

Errol Peredo, who was held to a field goal in the third period and also struggled in the first half, redeemed himself in the

fourth quarter, drilling 12 of his 19 markers in the payoff period to lift Mobil to the 17-point win.

Meanwhile, Ochets won the third game of the day via forfeiture after a no show from Tropical Laundry.

First Game

Mobil 92 – Estolas 23, Peredo 19, Moises 15, Ruluked 11, Rabauliman 9, Factor 8, Fitial 7.

MBI 75 – Iguel 18, Yabut 13, Trajano 11, Rebuyon 10, De Vero 9, G.Barbo 5, David 4, Muleta 3, D. Barbo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-18, 39-31, 66-53, 92-75.

Fourth Game

Joeten Superstores 85 – Quan 24, Feria 22, Lauron 15, Alfonso 11, Mendiola 8, Sablan 2.

Marianas Resort 55 – Crisostomo 17, Delos Reyes 13, Kapileo 10, Gatdula 8, Achas 3, Palacios 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-7, 38-21, 58-37, 85-55.

Joeten Superstores' Nino Feria, right, drives against a Marianas Resort defender during their game in the Emon Lodge caging yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

VFW sweeps Gaia Bar; Kagman-1 beats Night Hawks

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



VFW's One Shot and O!MG! dominated separate opponents in the continuation of play in Saipan Electronic Dart Association's Chichirika Division last Wednesday.

One Shot beat Gaia's World V, 11-4, at VFW Post 3457, while O!MG! defeated Gaiana C, 10-5, at Gaia Bar.

In other matches, Buddies Kagman-1 edged Night Hawks, 8-7, on the road at Jonny's Bar and Grill.

One Shot, O!MG!, and K-1 are all tied for the lead with identical 26-15 win-loss cards. The Night Hawks, (23-22) and Gaiana C, (22-23) are close behind with World V bringing up the rear with a 12-32 record.

Visiting O!MG! reigned supreme against Gaiana C after getting a great start by sweeping their opponent in the first four Double In/Double Out 301 games. Gaiana C won the first game of Wild and Crazy Cricket, but O!MG! came back and took the second match.

Then in Singles Cricket play, Gaiana C's Felix Travilla defeated O!MG!'s Donovan P. Castro in the first game, but Castro's teammates Carol Chargualaf, Arisa Sakai-Peters, and Steven Gardiner regrouped to take the other three matches.

Each team won a game of Partners Baseball; Gaiana took Game 1, 21-11, and O!MG! won Game 2, 20-15.

Even though they came up short overall, Gaiana C did finish out on a high note and won the final Team Double In/Dou-



WALTER SUTHERLAND

O!MG! team members, from left, Arisa Sakai-Peters, Martha Mendiola, Donovan P. Castro, Carol Chargualaf, Daniel Stafford, and Steven Gardiner pose for a photo after their SEDA-Chichirika match at Gaia Bar against the Gaiana C squad last Wednesday.

ble Out 1001 game, thanks to Roxanne Wakit's game winner on the Double 12 key.

In the other game, home team One Shot won its match against Gaia Bar's World V, but the team started slow, losing three out of the four Singles 310 Double In/Double Out matches to World V.

However, One Shot recovered by taking both Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket games to tie it back up. One Shot's Russel Saimon and Dexter Mendiola defeated World V's Paul Cha and Young You, while Tina Agulto and Randy Pagapular of One Shot took down Louie Colanes and James Wabinga.

The score remained tied as each team won a game of Partners 501 Double In/Double Out. World V's Cha and Collanes beat One Shot's Oscar Porass

and Jeff Bacani and One Shot's Mendiola and Saimon defeated World V's Young and Min Ho Kim.

Then it was all One Shot for the rest of the contest. One Shot's Pagapular, Porass, Agulto, and Bacani swept the Singles Cricket category and One Shot also took both Partners Baseball Games. Then One Shot slammed the door on World V after winning the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out game.

The third match up went all the way to the wire between visiting Buddies Kagman-1 and Jonny's Bar and Grill's Night Hawks.

Night Hawk's Buddy Garote and Samart Buathong won the first two Singles 301 Double In/Double Out games, but K-1's Rita Fitial and Jordan Hayes rallied back to take the last two matches.

K-1 then went on to take the two Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket matches.

K-1 lost the first Partners 501 Double In/Double Out game to Night Hawk's Garote and Buathong, but K-1's Anthony Fitial and Hayes won the second match to hold the lead, 5-3.

The score was 7-5, K-1, after both teams won a pair of Singles Regular Cricket matches. Night Hawk's Garote and Buathong won their games again, while wins by K-1's Anthony and Rita Fitial helped maintain the two-game cushion.

The Night Hawks then won both Partners Baseball matches to tie score, 7-7.

In the last 1001 Double In/Double Out contest, K-1's Rita Fitial and Anthony Fitial, Rodney Reyes, and Hayes won the final tiebreaker for the victory.



The Marianas Visitors Authority will stage the next Marianas Coffee Trail Run on Oct. 2, 2010, on Saipan. The event, traditionally held in January, will now be held in the latter part of the year.

Refill on 2010 Marianas Coffee Trail Run

Running enthusiasts will get a refill of the Marianas Coffee Trail Run this year, as the Marianas Visitors Authority stages a second event on Oct. 2.

The run will feature a 30-kilometer trail run and 10-km fun run/walk on challenging terrain offering scenic views of the tropical island. Beginning along the shore at American Memorial Park, the race heads to the highest point of the island on Mt. Tapochau before returning to the park. The course takes runners through wild coffee farms planted in the Japanese-colonial era, as well as the young coffee groves of Marianas Coffee Co.

The run, traditionally staged in January each year, will now be held in the latter part of the year.

"We're looking forward to another great staging of the Marianas Coffee Trail Run," said MVA Community Programs manager Martin Dueñas. "With this October run, the coffee trees will also be in full bloom, which will make the course even more attrac-

tive than it already is. Also, the later date will allow us to attract more visitors to the island during a relatively low-demand period."

Registration made by Oct. 1 is \$30. Registration on event day is \$40. All participants will receive a finisher's T-shirt, certificate of participation, and free entry to the awards banquet. The banquet will be held at Micro Beach at 11:30am on race day.

Awards will be given to the first, second, and third place finishers in the male and female divisions. Medals will also be given to winners of the age divisions. The age divisions are: 18 years and under, 19-29 years, 30-39 years, 40-49 years, and 50 years and up.

The event is sponsored by the MVA, Marianas Coffee Co., KFC Triathlon Japan, and TEAM PDI.

Registration forms are now available at the MVA office in Oleai. For more information, contact Ed Diaz of the MVA at ediaz@mymarianas.com or 664-3210. (MVA)





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Joeten, Mobil

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Piniella bows out
with a dud, Braves
rout Cubs

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2010

Rotary caging modifies age group competition

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 18th Annual Rotary Club Youth Basketball League will kick off next month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and will have competition in two age groups.

In the past, the Rotary caging had only one division, catering to 18-and-under players. However, with the revival of the Micronesian Basketball Confederation and its plans of holding various age groups tournaments in the next four years, Basketball Association of Northern Marianas Islands decided to make modifications in the age group competition in the Rotary caging.

This year, from 18-and-under, the Rotary caging will now open its doors to 19-and-under cagers, while a separate competition for 15-and-under age

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The Sixers' Joe Ada goes for a shot against two G-Stars defenders during their championship game in last year's Rotary caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The 2010 season of the youth league will kick off next month with competitions in U19 and U15 age groups.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



SASC releases calendar of events



Riders climb up to Papago village during last year's Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race, which will hit the road anew on Dec. 4.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The last four months of the year will be busy for Saipan Adventure Sports Club, as the group tentatively scheduled 14 events during this period.

SASC (formerly Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation) will start with the POWERade Banzai Off-Road Half Marathon/Fun Run on Sept. 11.

The next day, SASC will have the first of its series of Enticer races, while the Leap Frog event is set for Sept. 18.

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3 students get long-awaited recognition

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Three student athletes selected as top performers for May and June finally got their medals and prizes yesterday during a brief ceremony at the TSL Plaza.



Tennis' Christian and Negahr Rastguiy, who were voted Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMASA Athletes of the Month (for June) joined athletics and May Female Student Athlete of the Month Reyllyn Sapong in the awards

See 3 STUDENTS on Page 26

Rollers improve standings in 2010 Budweiser caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Bud Ice Rollers moved up to the team standings in the 2010 Budweiser Men's Basketball League after winning their



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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Eli Aughenbaugh, seen here going up for an undergoal shot against the Ol'Aces, scored 17 points in the Bud Ice Rollers' 90-78 win over the Runnin' Rebels in the Budweiser caging last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.